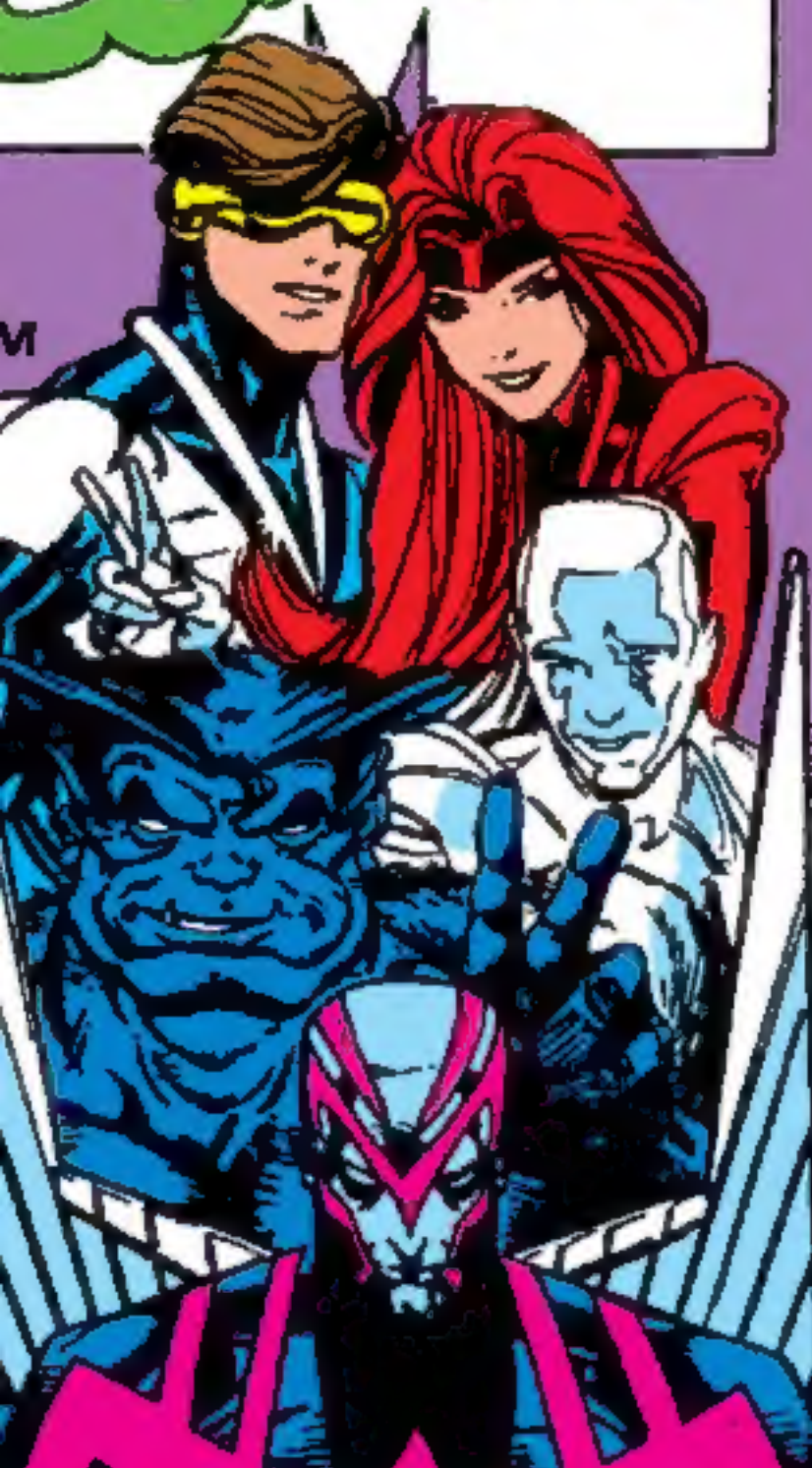


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CODE
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EXTINCTION AGENDA

PART 9

ACT DAY

FINAL
STRIKE



JIM
LEE

STAN LEE
PRESENTS

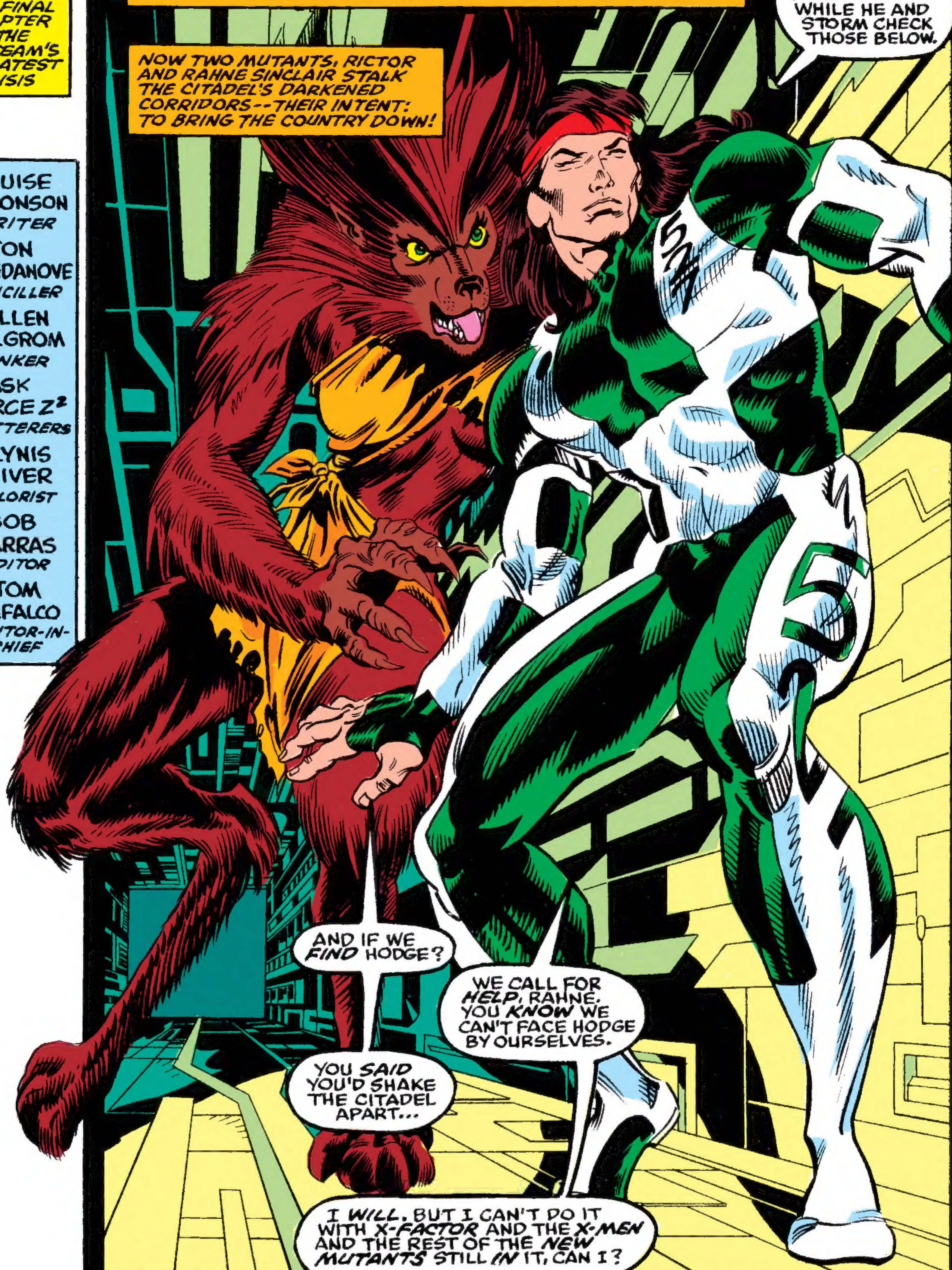
THE FINAL
CHAPTER
IN THE
X-TEAM'S
GREATEST
CRISIS

LOUISE
SIMONSON
WRITER
JON
BOGDANOVE
PENCILLER
ALLEN
MILGROM
INKER
TASK
FORCE Z²
LETTERERS
GLYNIS
OLIVER
COLORIST
BOB
HARRAS
EDITOR
TOM
DEFALCO
EDITOR-IN-
CHIEF

THE CITADEL, HEADQUARTERS OF GENOSHAN STATE SECURITY. FROM ITS OFFICES, THIS ISLAND NATION IS GOVERNED, WHILE ITS LABORATORIES PRODUCE BIO-ENGINEERED SLAVES WHOSE EFFORTS INSURE GENOSHA'S PROSPERITY.

NOW TWO MUTANTS, RICTOR AND RAHNE SINCLAIR STALK THE CITADEL'S DARKENED CORRIDORS--THEIR INTENT: TO BRING THE COUNTRY DOWN!

CABLE SAID
CHECK THESE
UPPER FLOORS
FOR HODGE
WHILE HE AND
STORM CHECK
THOSE BELOW.



AND IF WE
FIND HODGE?

WE CALL FOR
HELP, RAHNE.
YOU KNOW WE
CAN'T FACE HODGE
BY OURSELVES.

YOU SAID
YOU'D SHAKE
THE CITADEL
APART...

I WILL, BUT I CAN'T DO IT
WITH X-FACTOR AND THE X-MEN
AND THE REST OF THE NEW
MUTANTS STILL IN IT, CAN I?

SUDDENLY, CAMERON HODGE, CYBORG ALLY OF GENOSHA'S PRESIDENT, ARCH-ENEMY OF THE MUTANT TEAMS, APPEARS OUT OF THE SHADOWS...

WELL, WELL!
TWO OF THE
INSECTS WHO
DESTROYED
MY LAB.

RAHNE!
GET
BACK!

CABLE!
IT'S HODGE!
WE'VE FOUND
HIM!

CALL FOR
HELP ALL YOU
WANT, GENEJOKE.
THERE IS NOTHING
CABLE OR ANYONE
CAN DO TO SAVE
YOU!

STAN LEE PRESENTS

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

HODGE--
GRRRRR--

RAHNE, GET
BACK. YOU
CAN'T ATTACK
HIM SINGLE-
HANDED, IT'S
SUICIDE!

CABLE--
WE'VE GOT
A SITUATION
HERE!

AND, ON LEVELS BELOW, CABLE, LEADER OF THE NEW MUTANTS AND STORM, LEADER OF THE X-MEN, LISTEN VIA A TRANSMITTER...

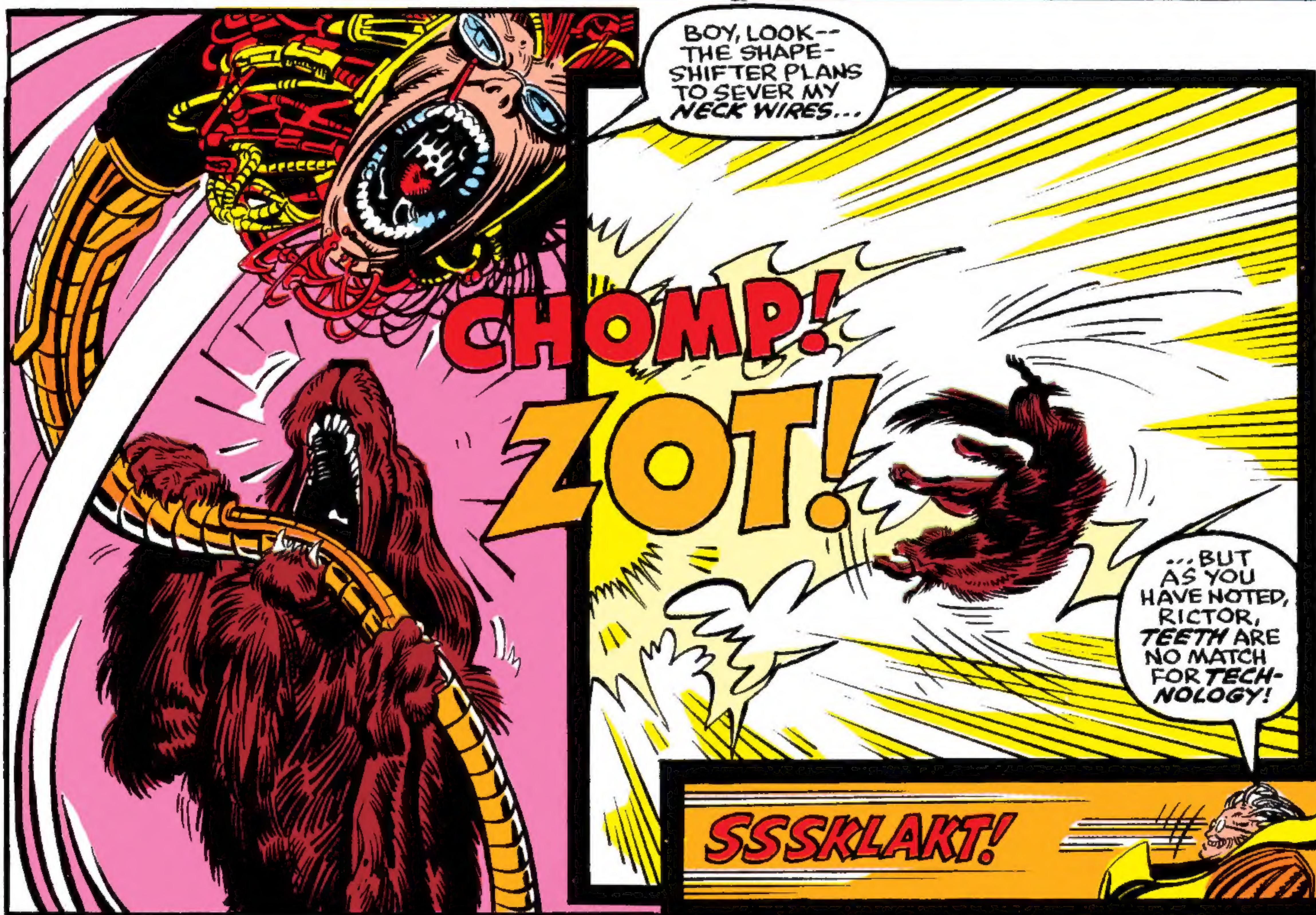
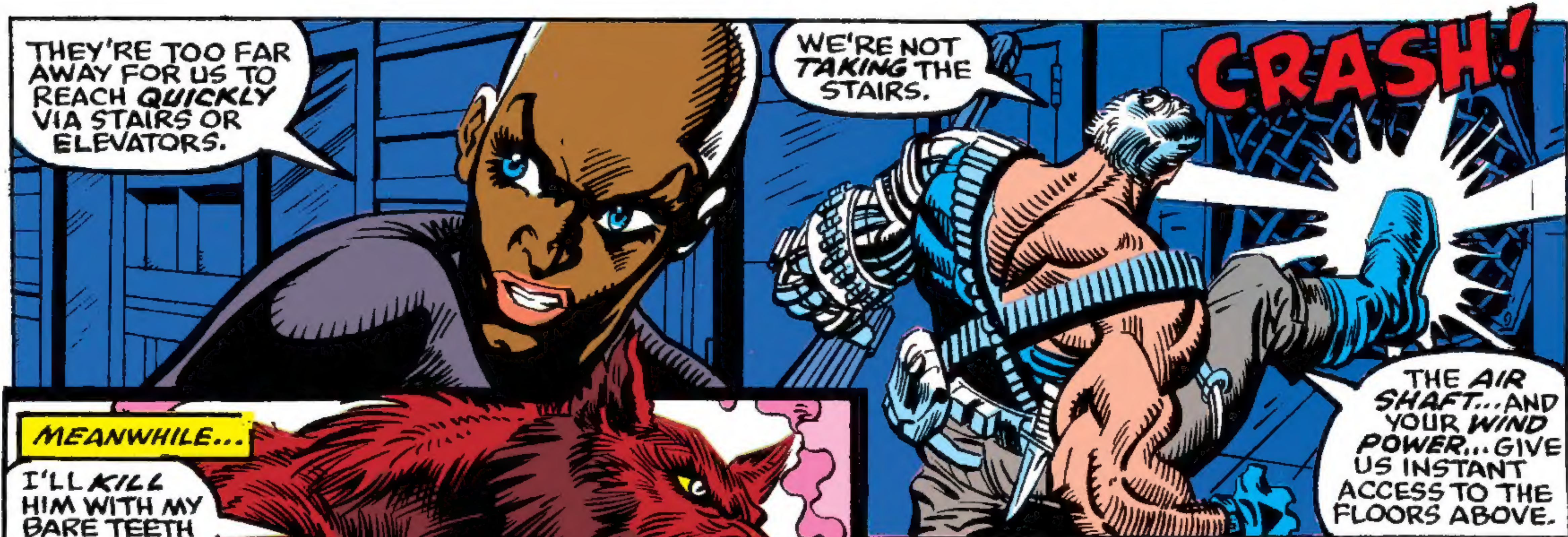
RIC, TRY TO
CONTROL
HER! WE'LL
BE THERE!

RAHNE'S
NOT
LISTENING,
STORM.

THE GENE-
GINEER
CHANGED
HER, CABLE.
SHE'S NO
LONGER THE
GENTLE, OBE-
DIENT GIRL WE
KNEW.

I FEAR
IN HER WOLF-
GIRL FORM,
SHE NO
LONGER THINKS
QUITE RATION-
ALLY, AND SHE
LOATHES
HODGE.

WITH GOOD
REASON.



AND TECHNOLOGY IS NO MATCH FOR MY SEISMIC POWER!

WHO AM I KIDDING? I'VE TRIED THIS BEFORE. THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TAKE HIM OUT ALONE.

RUMMMBLE

ALL THIS IS GOING TO DO IS GET ME BLOWN AWAY, TOO, BUT WHAT CHOICE HAVE I GOT?

NEVER THINK YOU'VE WON, BOY! I'VE DROPPED THE GIRL...

...SINCE YOU NOW PRESENT THE MORE CHALLENGING TARGET.

I MEMORIZED THE CITADEL'S LAYOUT FROM THE S.H.I.E.L.D. DOCUMENTS VAL COOPER GAVE US.

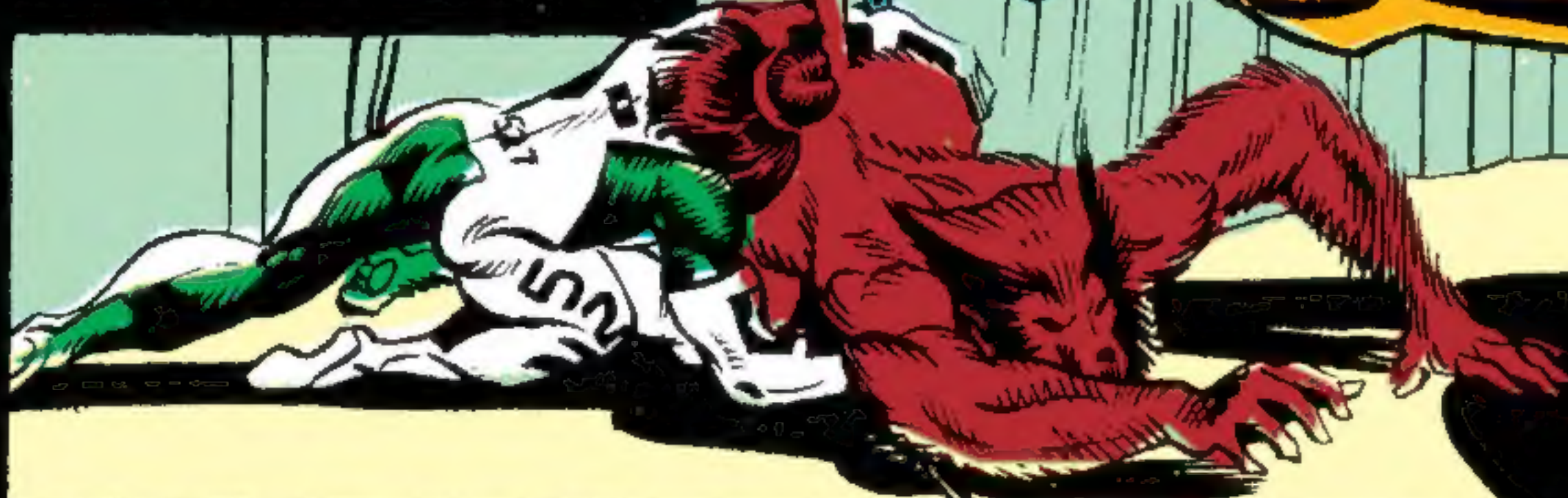
AND BELOW...

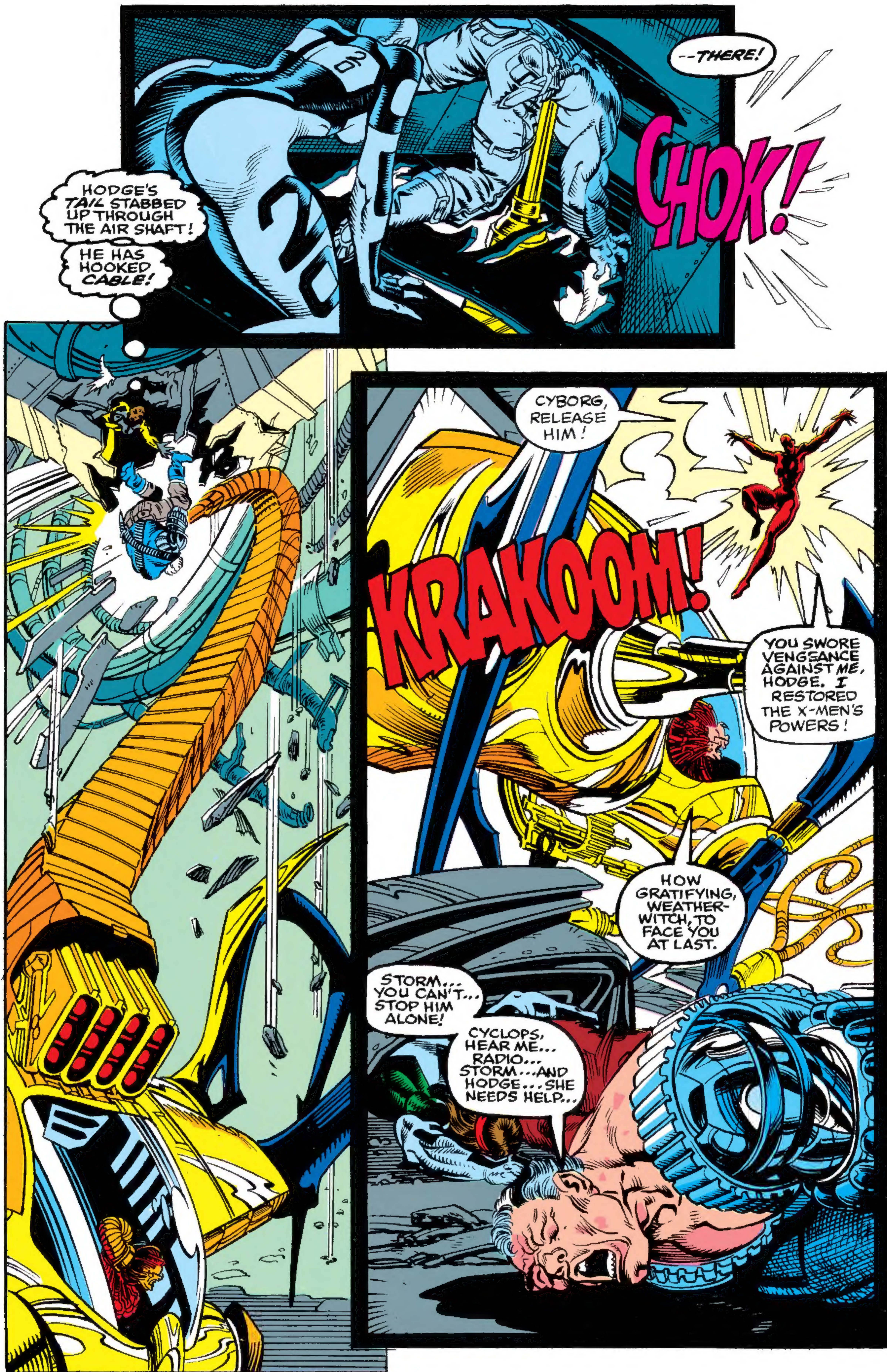
STOP HERE! INTO THIS HORIZONTAL SHAFT!

CABLE, DO YOU HEAR? THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE HAVE CEASED.

I HEAR YOU, VERMIN, SCUTTling THROUGH THE VENTS. I KNOW YOU'RE--

YOU KNOW WHERE WE MUST GO?





HODGE'S
TAIL STABBED
UP THROUGH
THE AIR SHAFT!
HE HAS
HOOKED
CABLE!

--THERE!

CHOK!

CYBORG,
RELEASE
HIM!

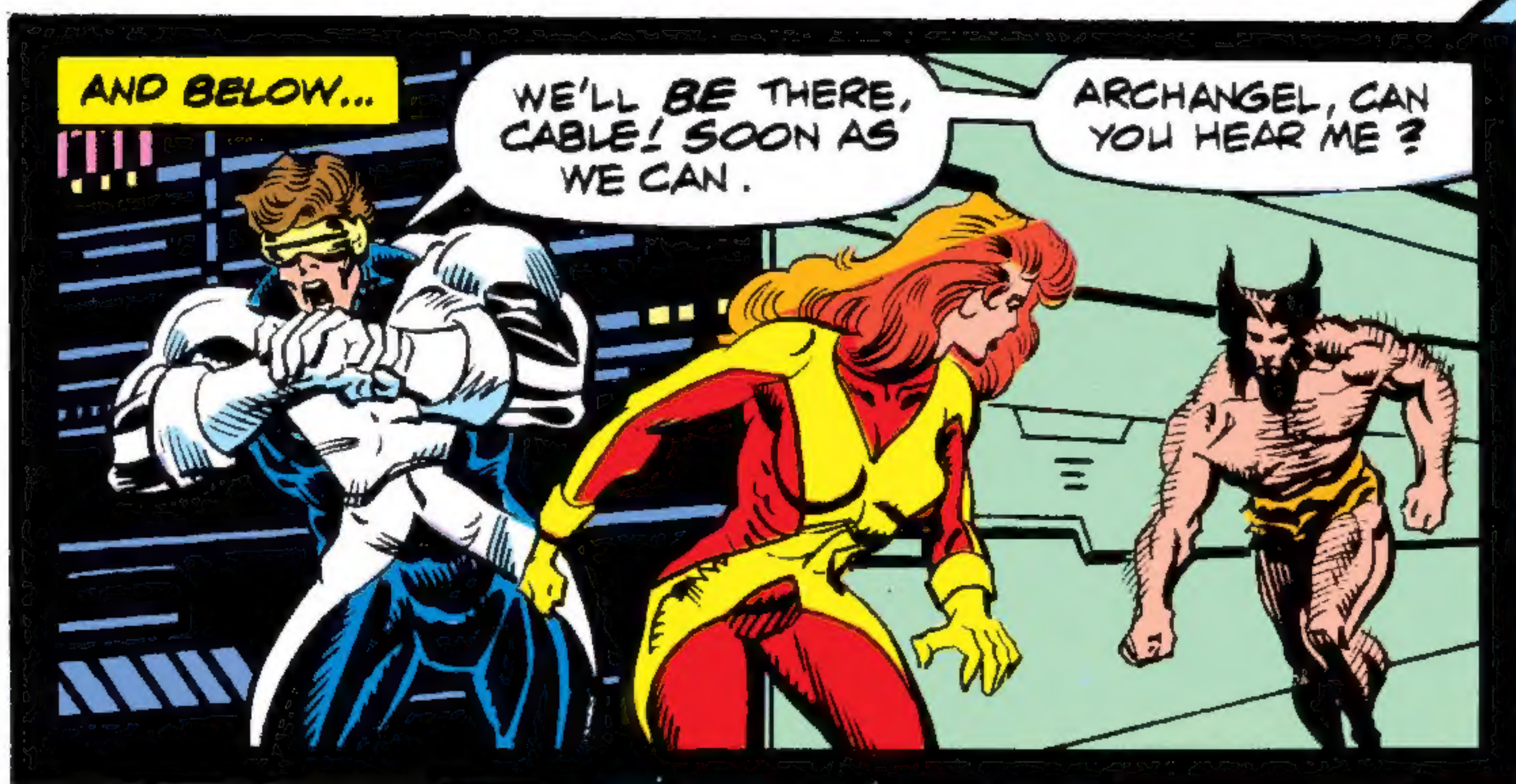
KRAKOOOM!

YOU SWORE
VENGEANCE
AGAINST ME,
HODGE. I
RESTORED
THE X-MEN'S
POWERS!

HOW
GRATIFYING,
WEATHER-
WITCH, TO
FACE YOU
AT LAST.

STORM...
YOU CAN'T...
STOP HIM
ALONE!

CYCLOPS,
HEAR ME...
RADIO...
STORM...AND
HODGE...SHE
NEEDS HELP...



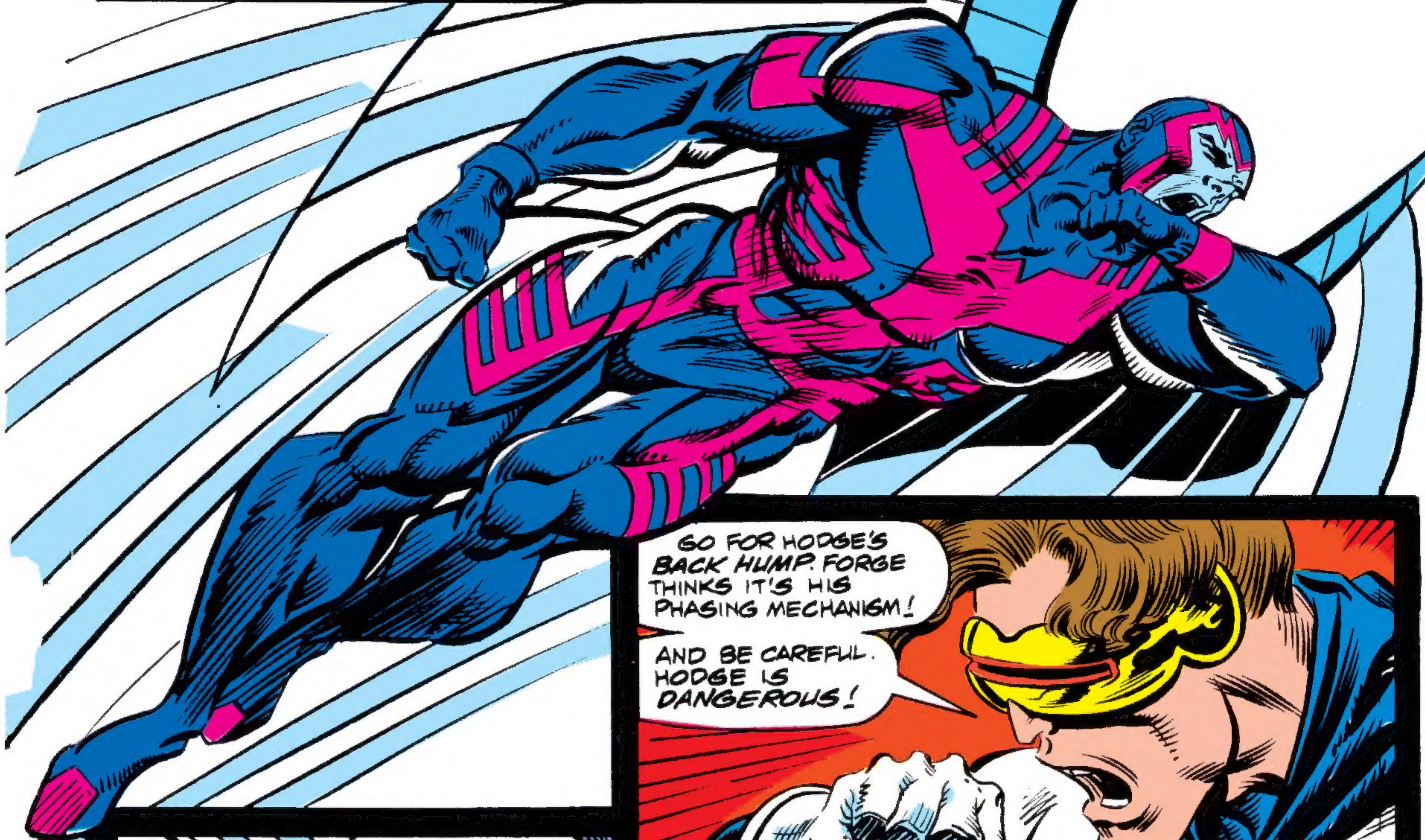
AND BELOW...

WE'LL BE THERE, CABLE! SOON AS WE CAN.

ARCHANGEL, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

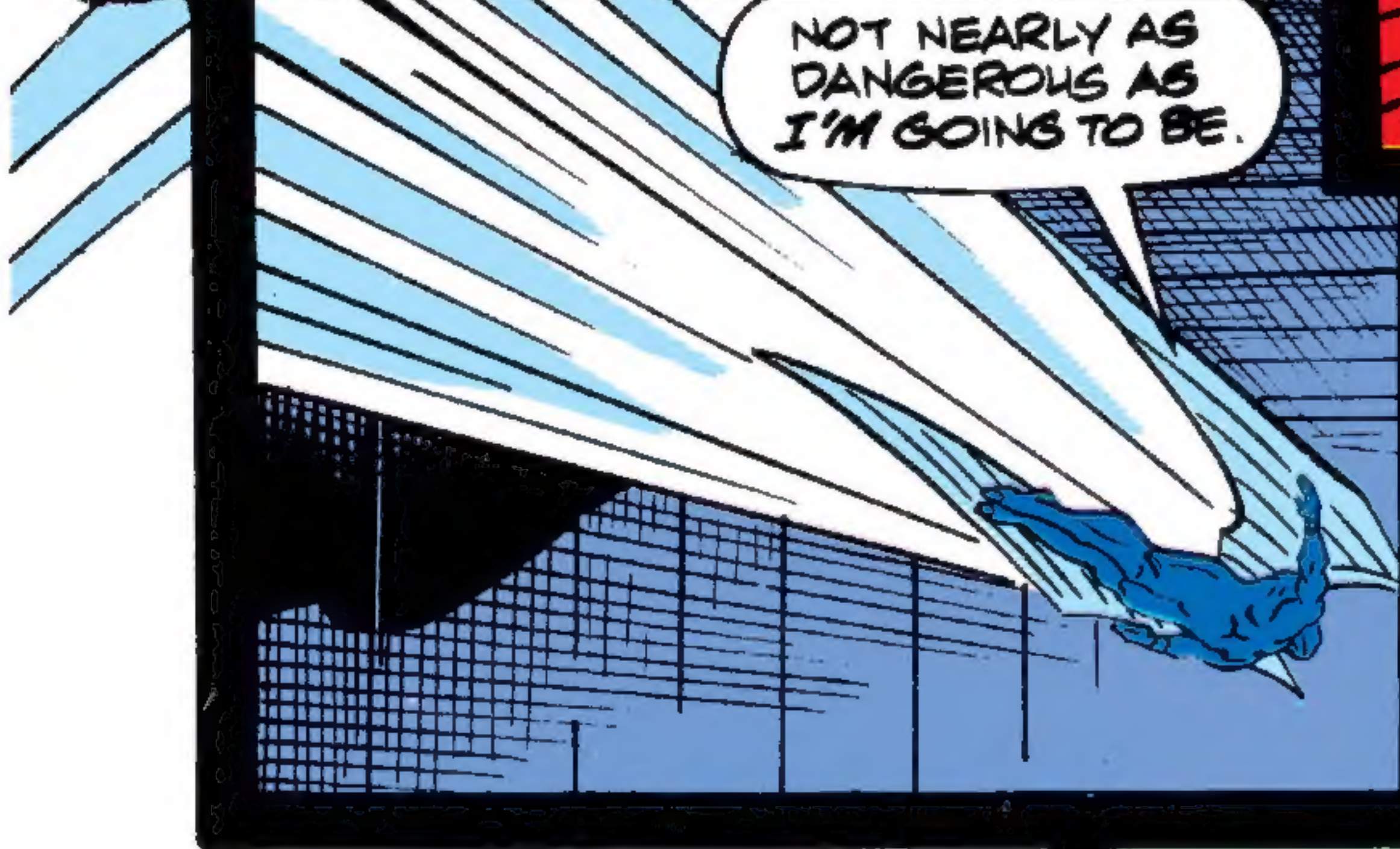
AND ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING...

THEY'RE NOT FAR AWAY, CYKE. I CAN HEAR STORM'S THUNDER. I'M ON MY WAY.



GO FOR HODGE'S BACK HUMP. FORGE THINKS IT'S HIS PHASING MECHANISM!

AND BE CAREFUL. HODGE IS DANGEROUS!



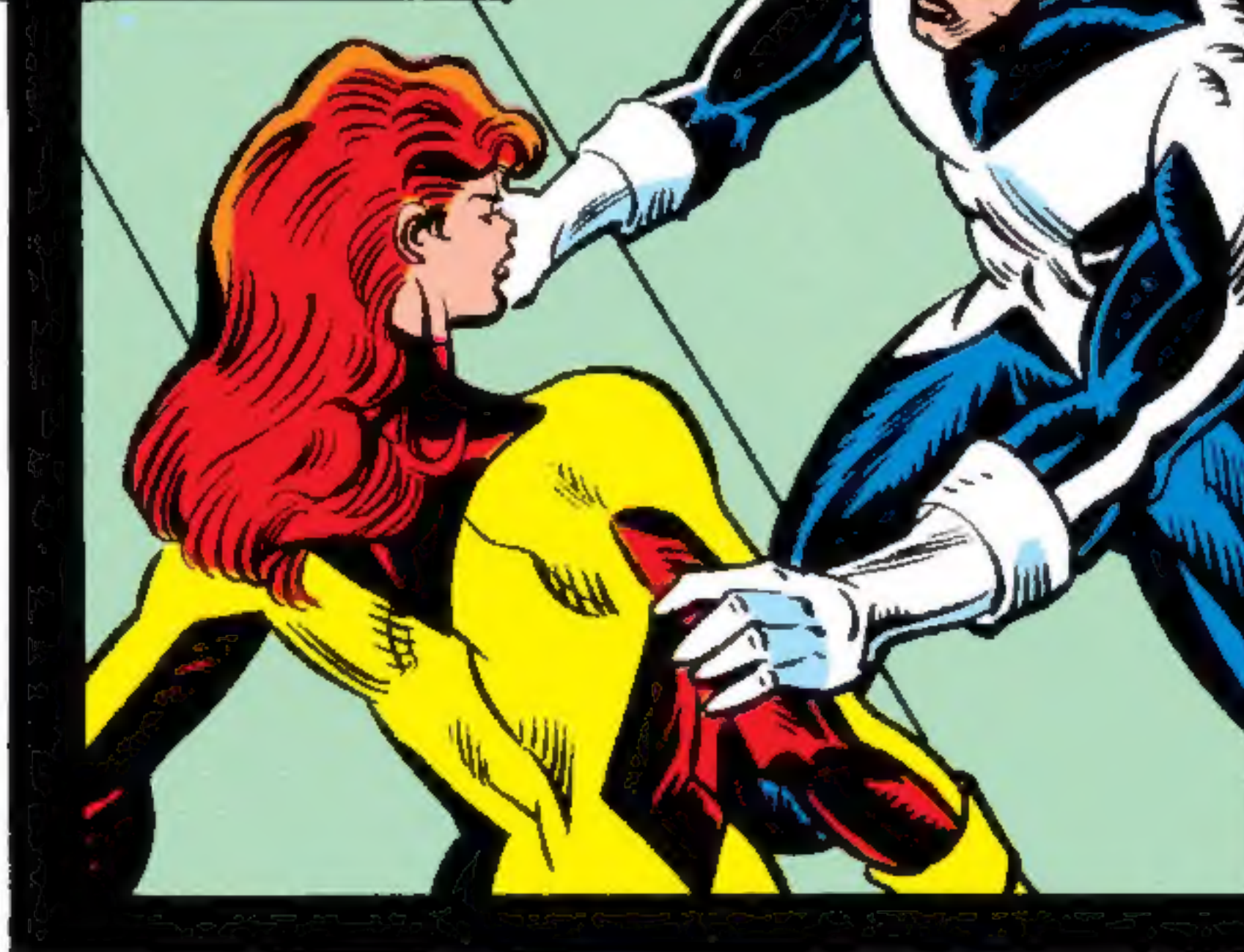
NOT NEARLY AS DANGEROUS AS I'M GOING TO BE.



JEAN, WHEN WE APPROACH HODGE, I WANT YOU TO KEEP WELL BACK FROM HIM. YOUR TK SHIELD MAY NOT STOP HIM.

YOU'RE NOT TELLING HER ANYTHING SHE DOESN'T KNOW, BUB.

OR ANYTHING SHE'D LISTEN TO IF SHE HAD THE CHANCE TO FINISH THAT SCUM.



BACK OFF, LOGAN.
THIS IS NONE OF
YOUR BUSINESS.

WE'RE TEAMMATES.
THAT MAKES IT
MY BUSINESS.

SHE'S AS MUCH
A FIGHTER AS
YOU ARE AND--

LOGAN'S RIGHT! I'M NOT GOING
TO HOLD BACK WHEN MY ACTIONS
CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE... ANY
MORE THAN YOU WOULD...

...AND I AM PERFECTLY ABLE TO
SPEAK FOR MYSELF, AND MAKE
MY OWN CHOICES. IS THAT
UNDERSTOOD?

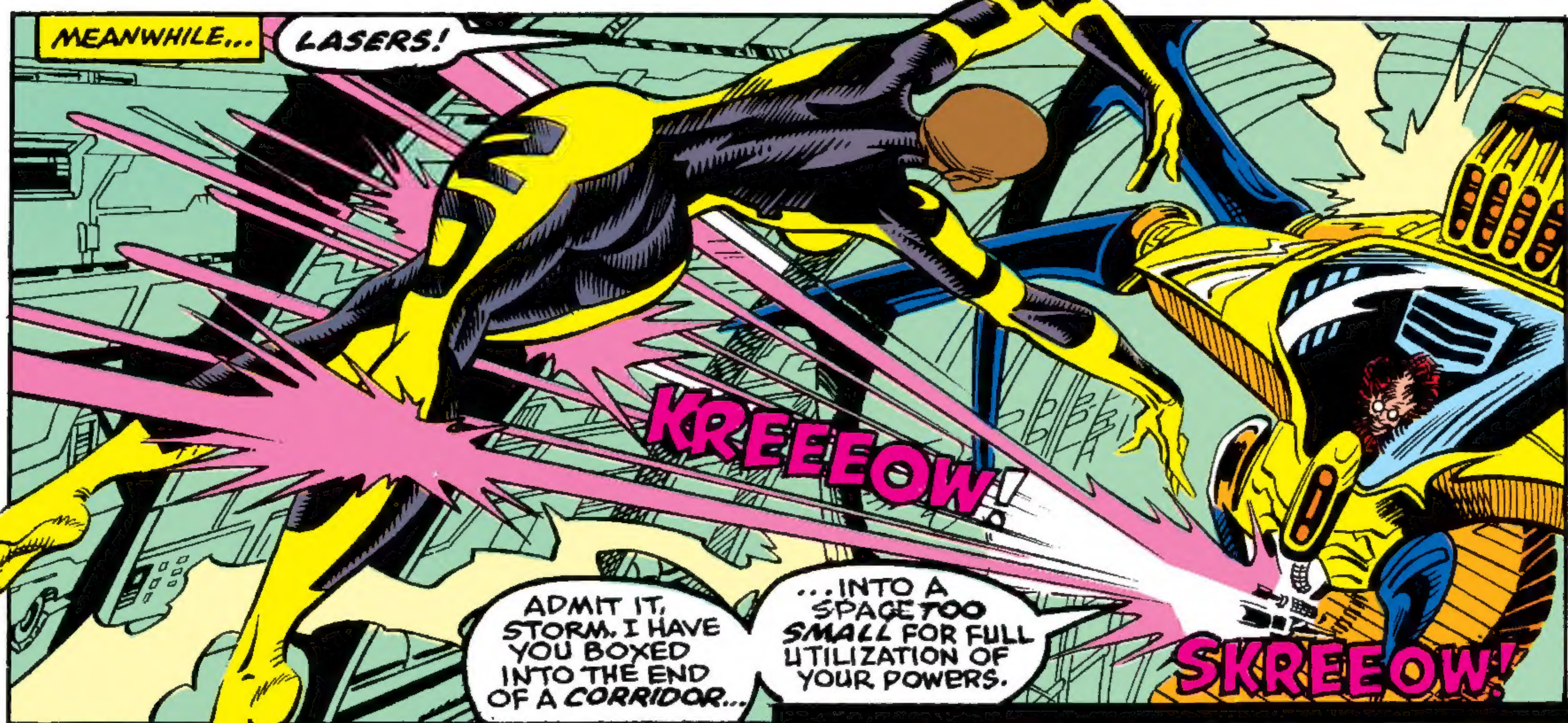
HOLD
IT!

GOOD. NOW COME
ON, STORM IS
WAITING.

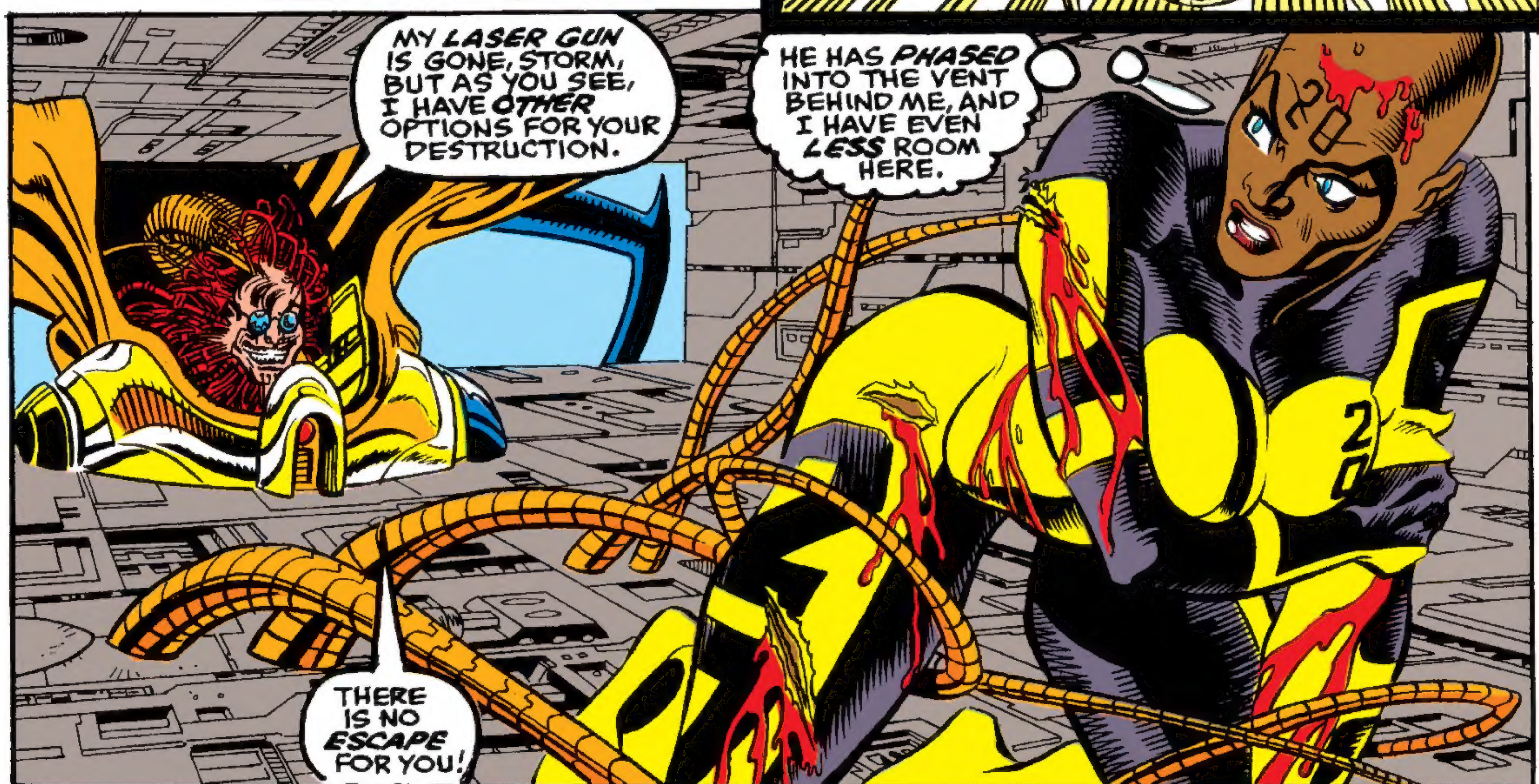
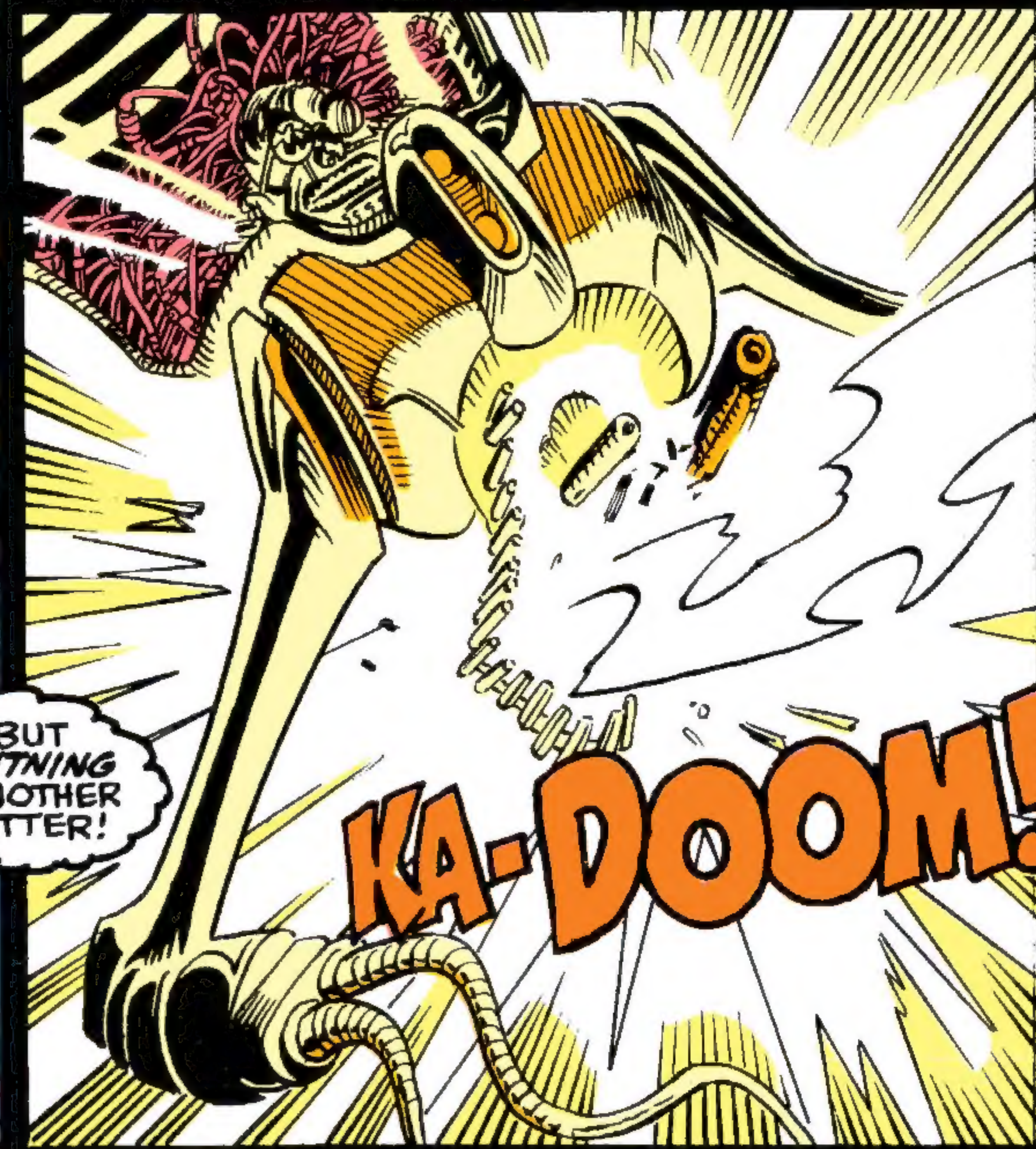
SHE'S
SOME
WOMAN.

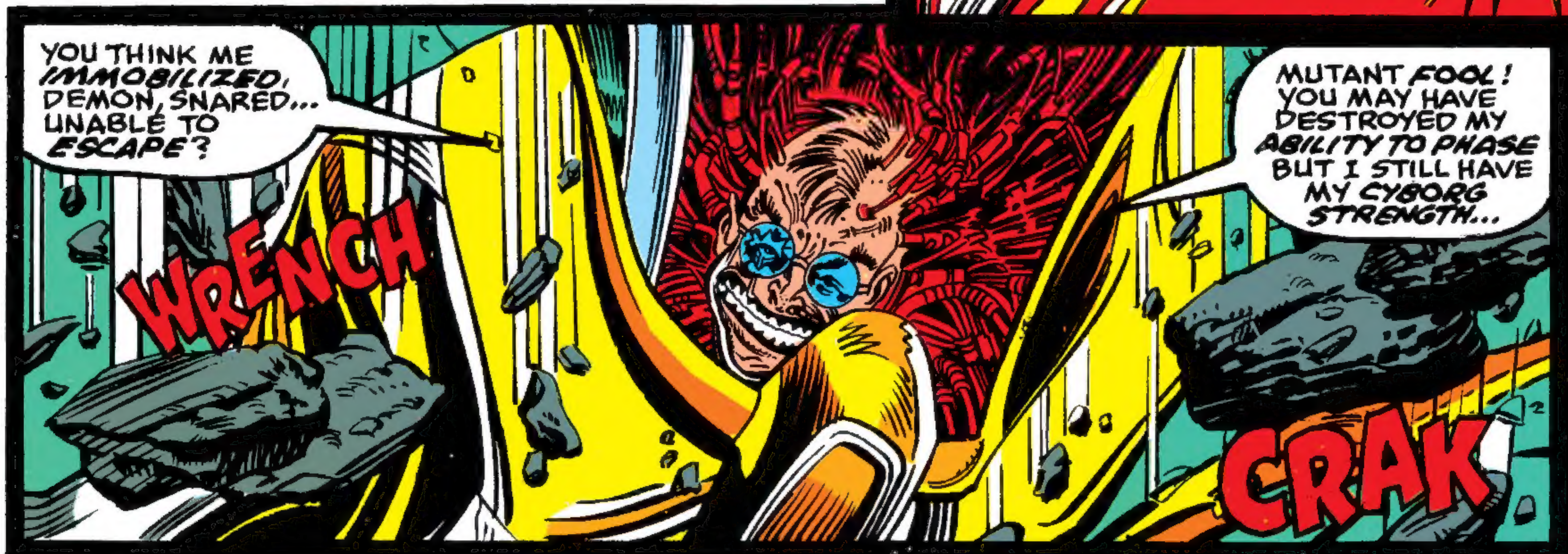
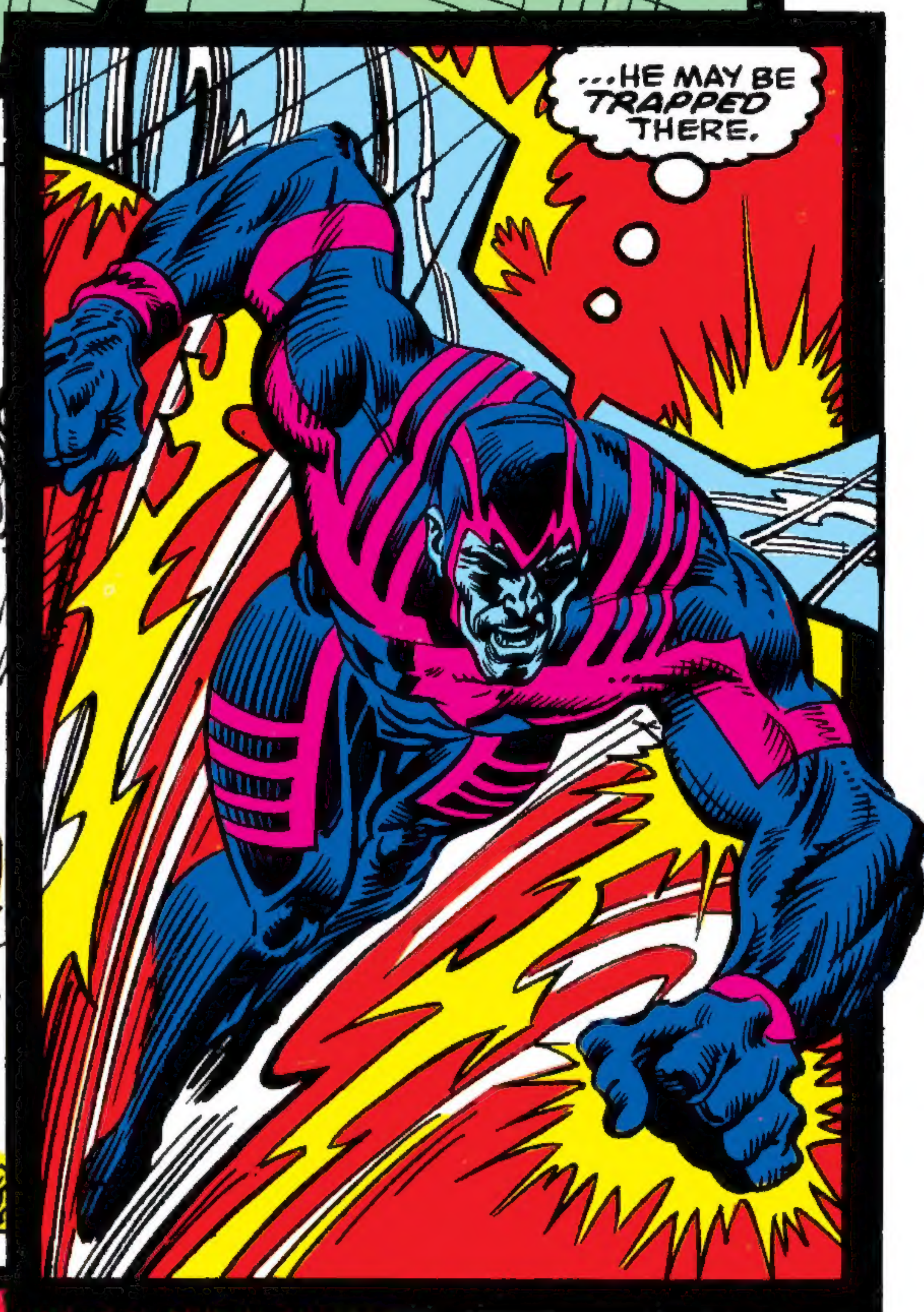
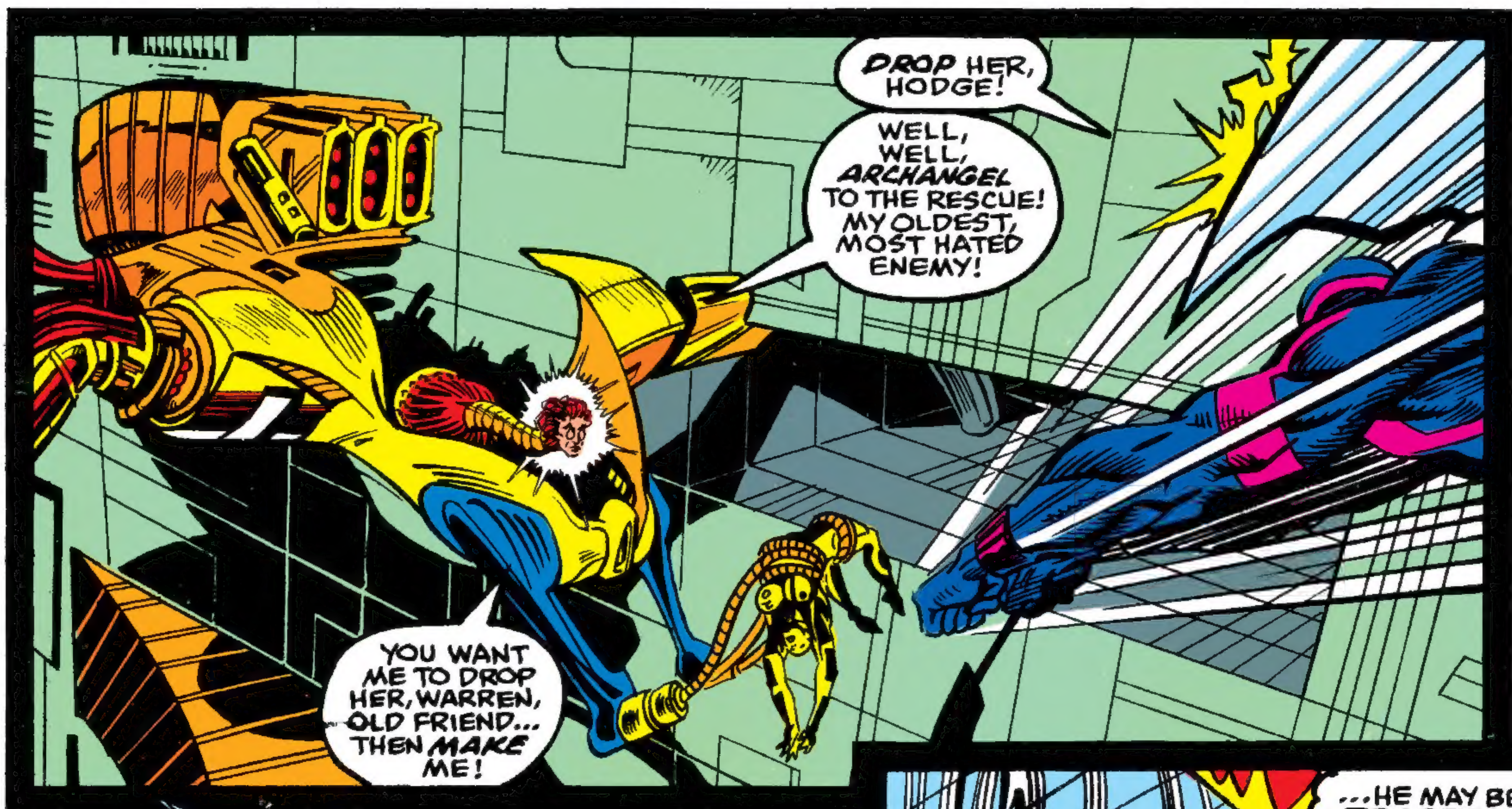
THERE'S NOT
ANOTHER
LIKE HER.

AND I'M SO AFRAID
I MIGHT LOSE HER,
IT'S MAKING ME ACT
SOFT IN THE HEAD.



HE IS RIGHT. I CANNOT MANEUVER EASILY HERE TO CREATE WIND EFFECTS...

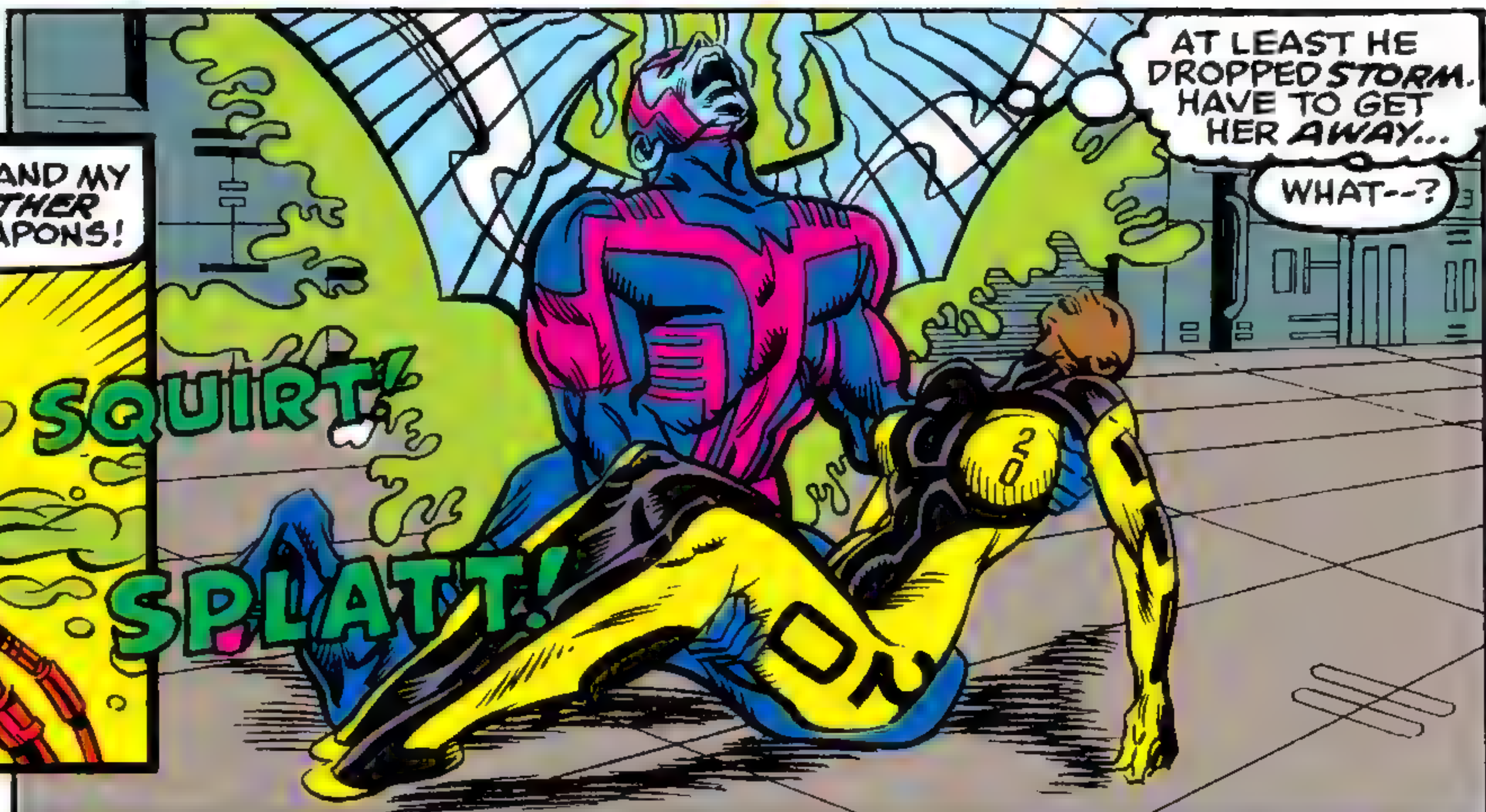






...AND MY
OTHER
WEAPONS!

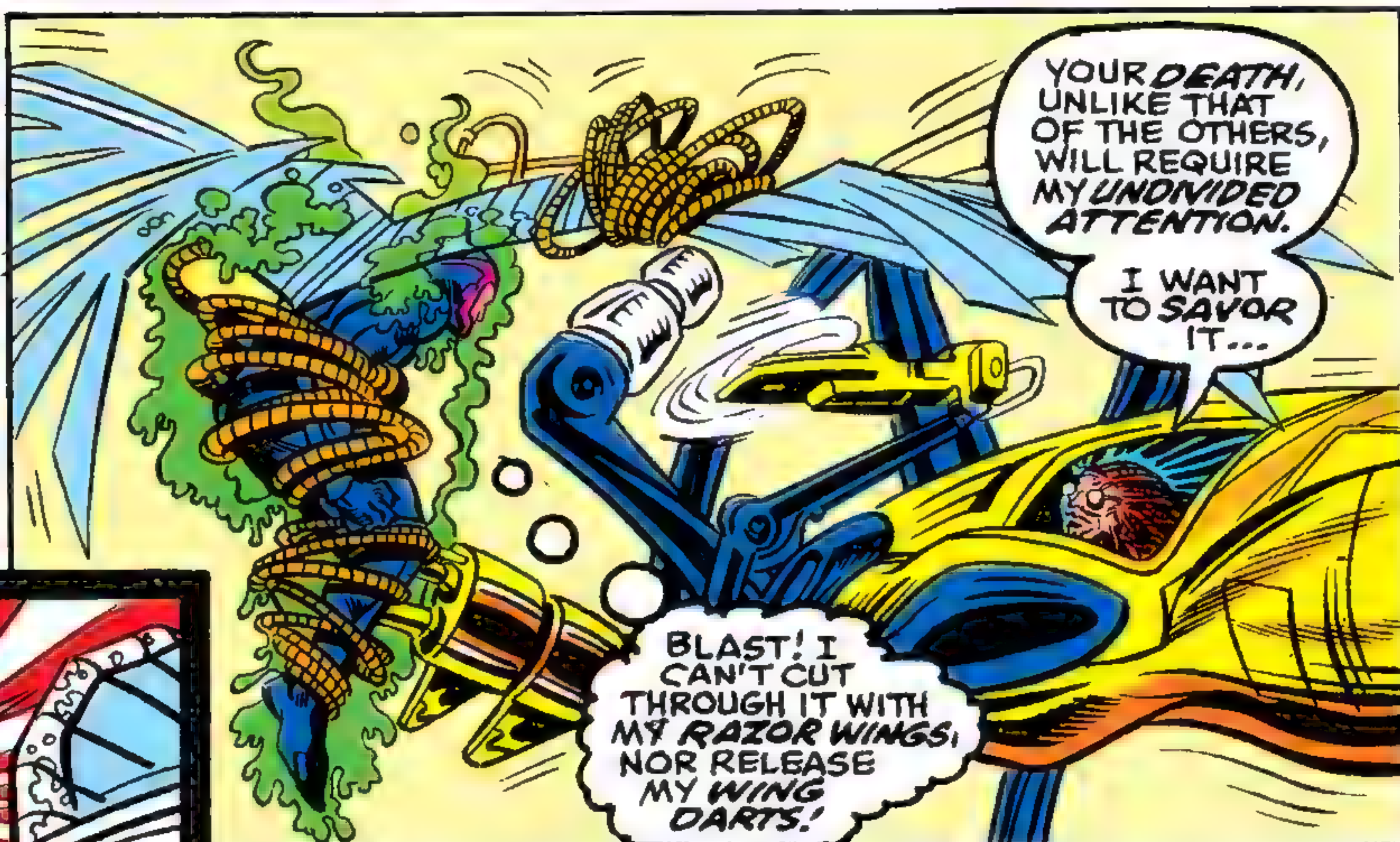
SQUIRT!
SPLATT!



AT LEAST HE
DROPPED STORM.
HAVE TO GET
HER AWAY...

WHAT--?

A POLYMER
COMPOUND I
DESIGNED,
WARREN, A
MOLECULAR
ADHESIVE.



YOUR DEATH,
UNLIKE THAT
OF THE OTHERS,
WILL REQUIRE
MY UNDIVIDED
ATTENTION.

I WANT
TO SAVOR
IT...

BLAST! I
CAN'T CUT
THROUGH IT WITH
MY RAZOR WINGS,
NOR RELEASE
MY WING
DARTS!



AND NOW,
I WILL USE
MY SAW BLADE
TO SLICE OFF
YOUR HEAD...

...AS YOU
ONCE USED
YOUR WINGS
TO SLICE OFF
MINE!

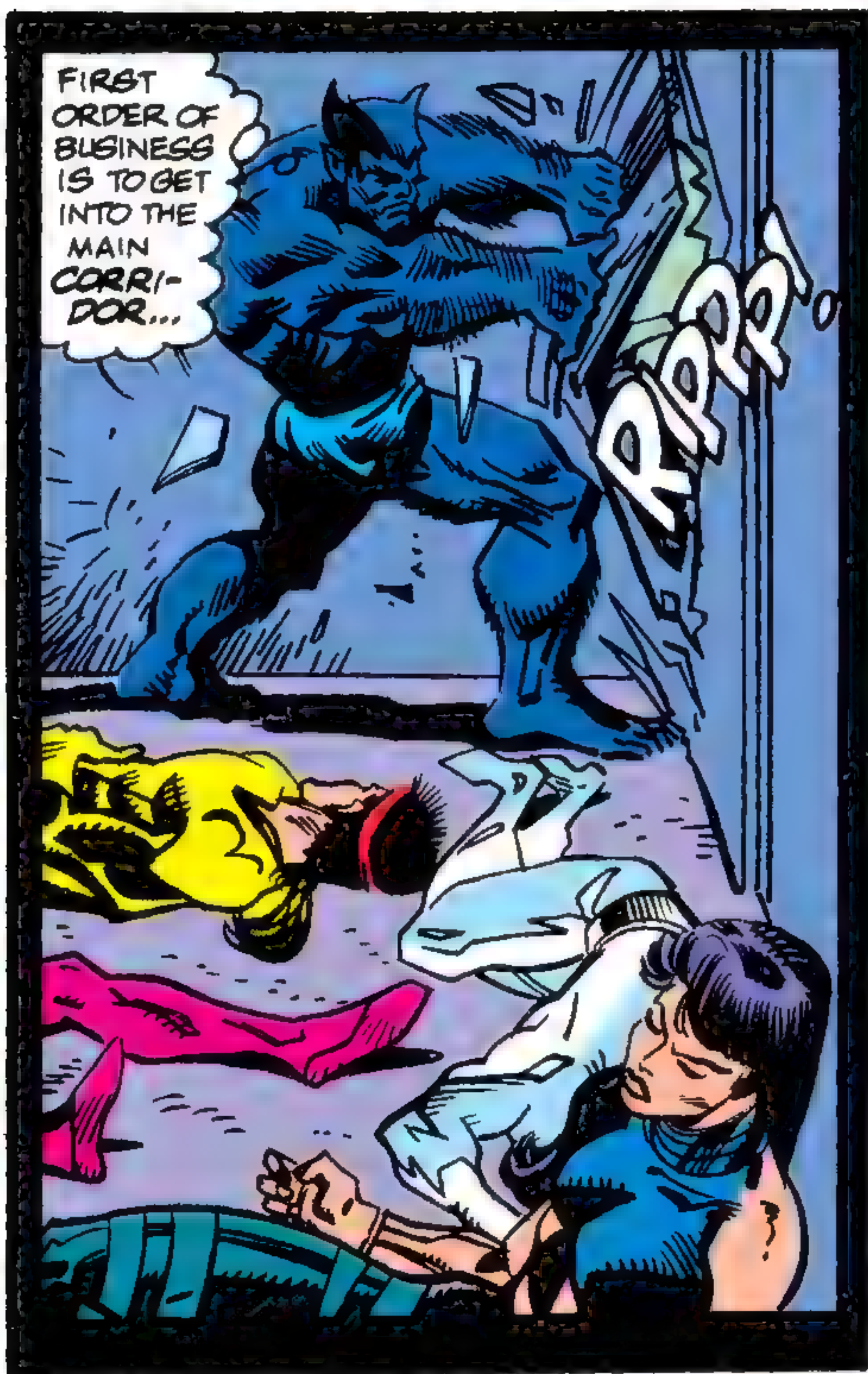
WHIRRRR

MEANWHILE, IN THE CORRIDORS BELOW, THE BEAST
CHECKS HODGE'S OTHER VICTIMS...

CYKE SAID GET THESE
GUYS OUT OF HERE. BUT
THERE ARE FIVE OF THEM...
ALL IN WORSE SHAPE
THAN I AM.

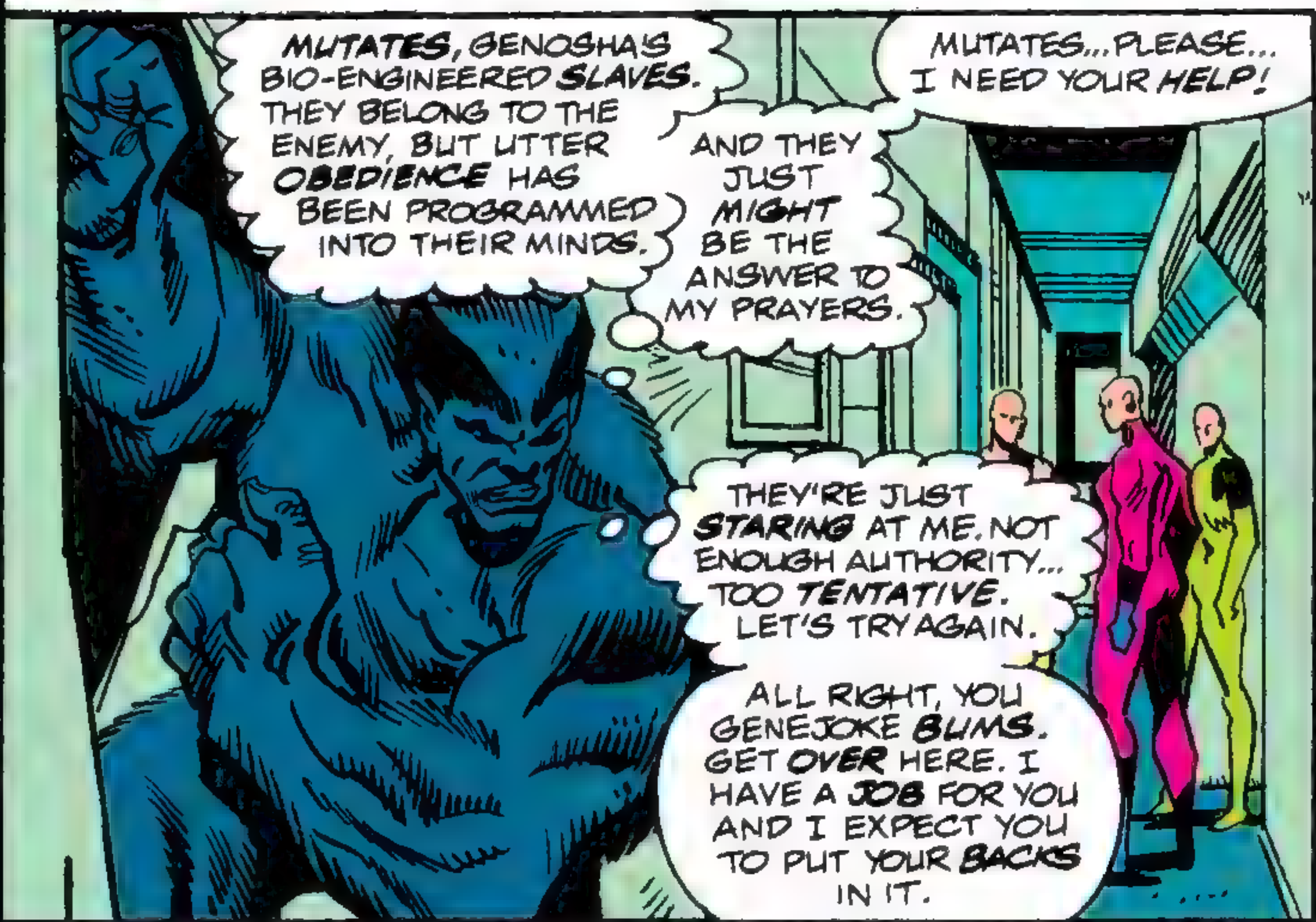
AND AFTER THAT POUND-
ING I TOOK, I DON'T
KNOW IF I CAN CARRY
THEM.





FIRST
ORDER OF
BUSINESS
IS TO GET
INTO THE
MAIN
CORRI-
DOR...

Rrrr!



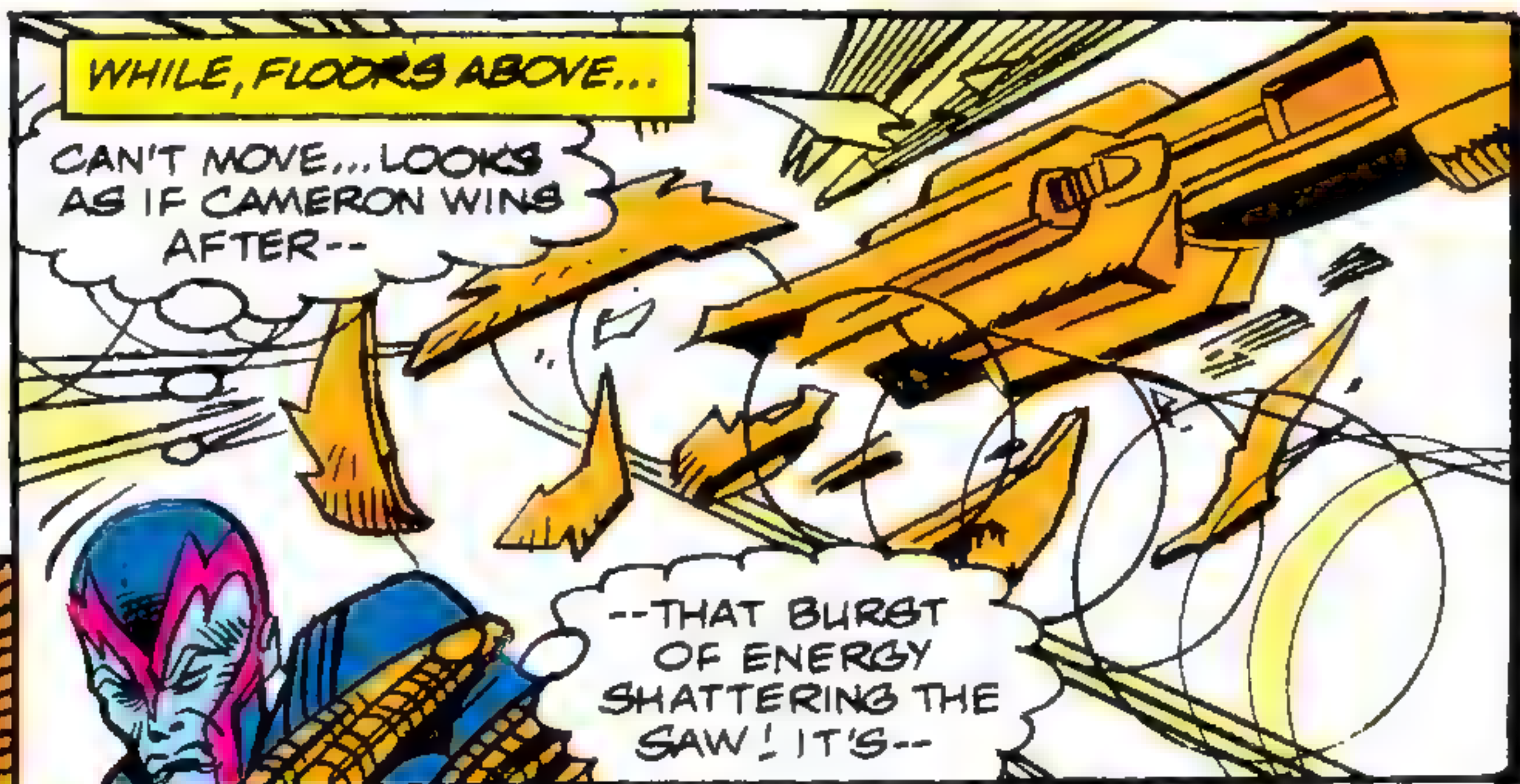
MUTATES, GENOSHA'S
BIO-ENGINEERED SLAVES.
THEY BELONG TO THE
ENEMY, BUT UTTER
OBEDIENCE HAS
BEEN PROGRAMMED
INTO THEIR MINDS.

MUTATES... PLEASE...
I NEED YOUR HELP!

AND THEY
JUST
MIGHT
BE THE
ANSWER TO
MY PRAYERS.

THEY'RE JUST
STARING AT ME. NOT
ENOUGH AUTHORITY...
TOO TENTATIVE.
LET'S TRY AGAIN.

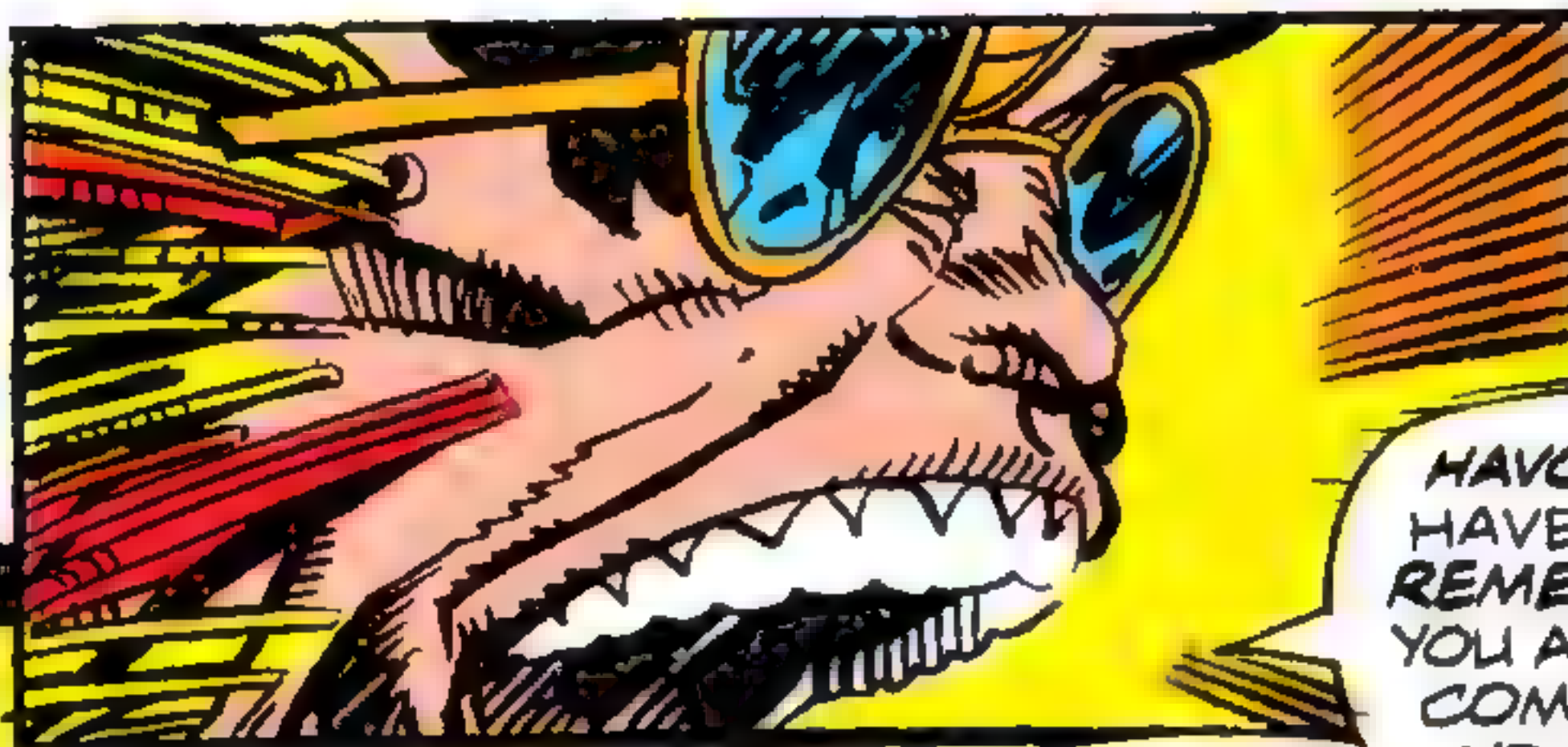
ALL RIGHT, YOU
GENEJOKE BUMS.
GET OVER HERE. I
HAVE A JOB FOR YOU
AND I EXPECT YOU
TO PUT YOUR BACKS
IN IT.



WHILE, FLOORS ABOVE...

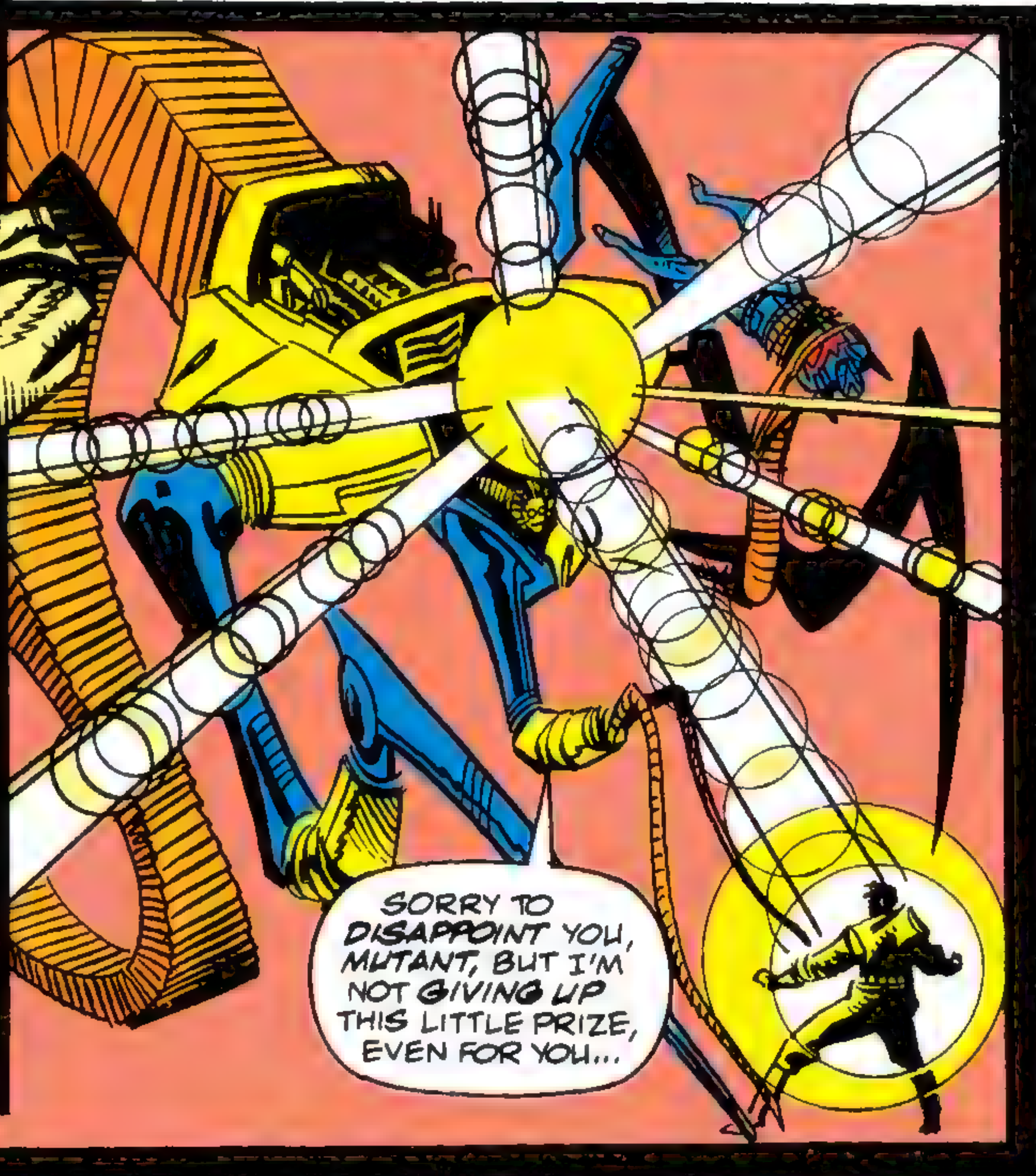
CAN'T MOVE... LOOKS
AS IF CAMERON WINS
AFTER--

--THAT BURST
OF ENERGY
SHATTERING THE
SAW! IT'S--

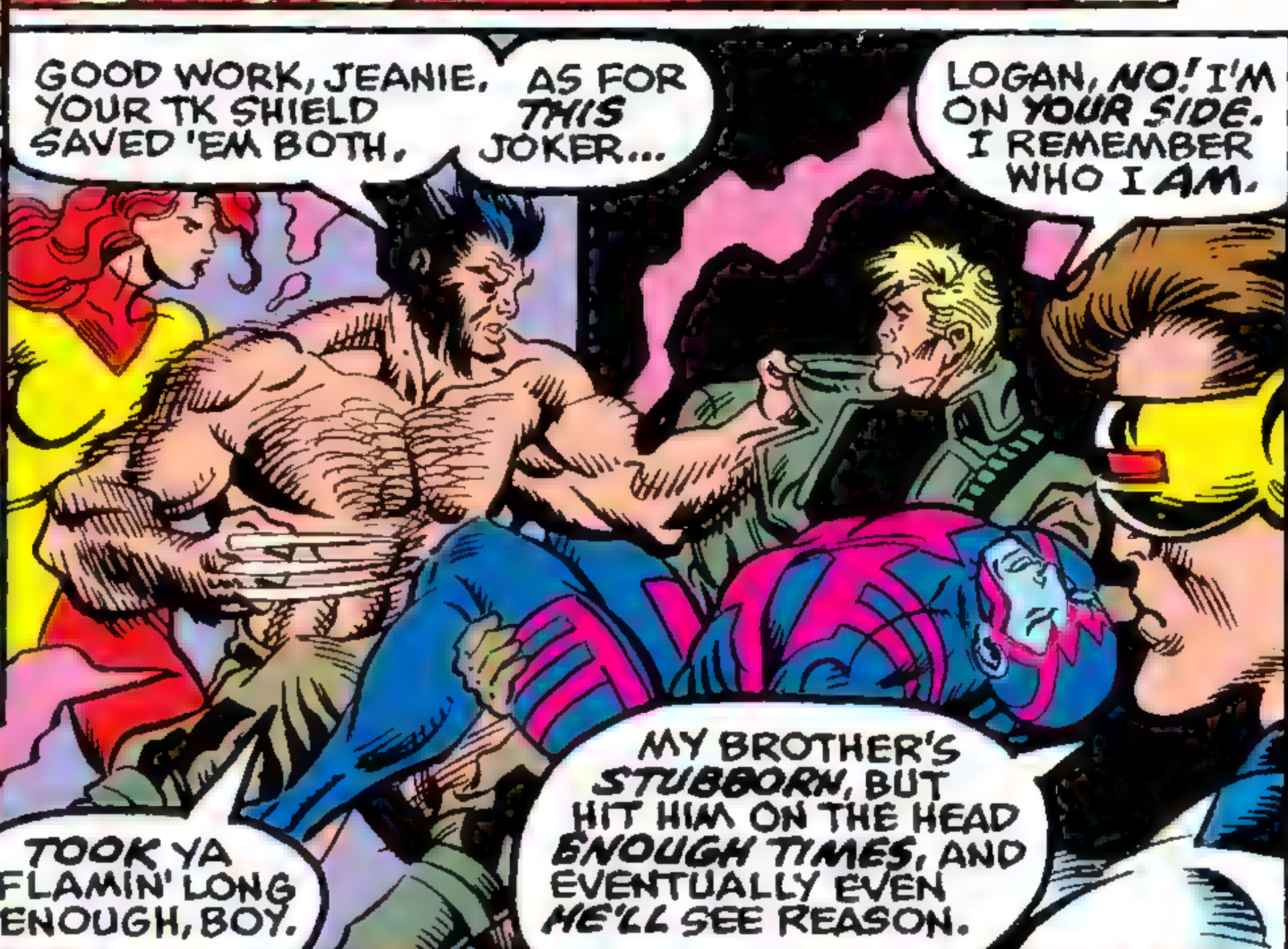
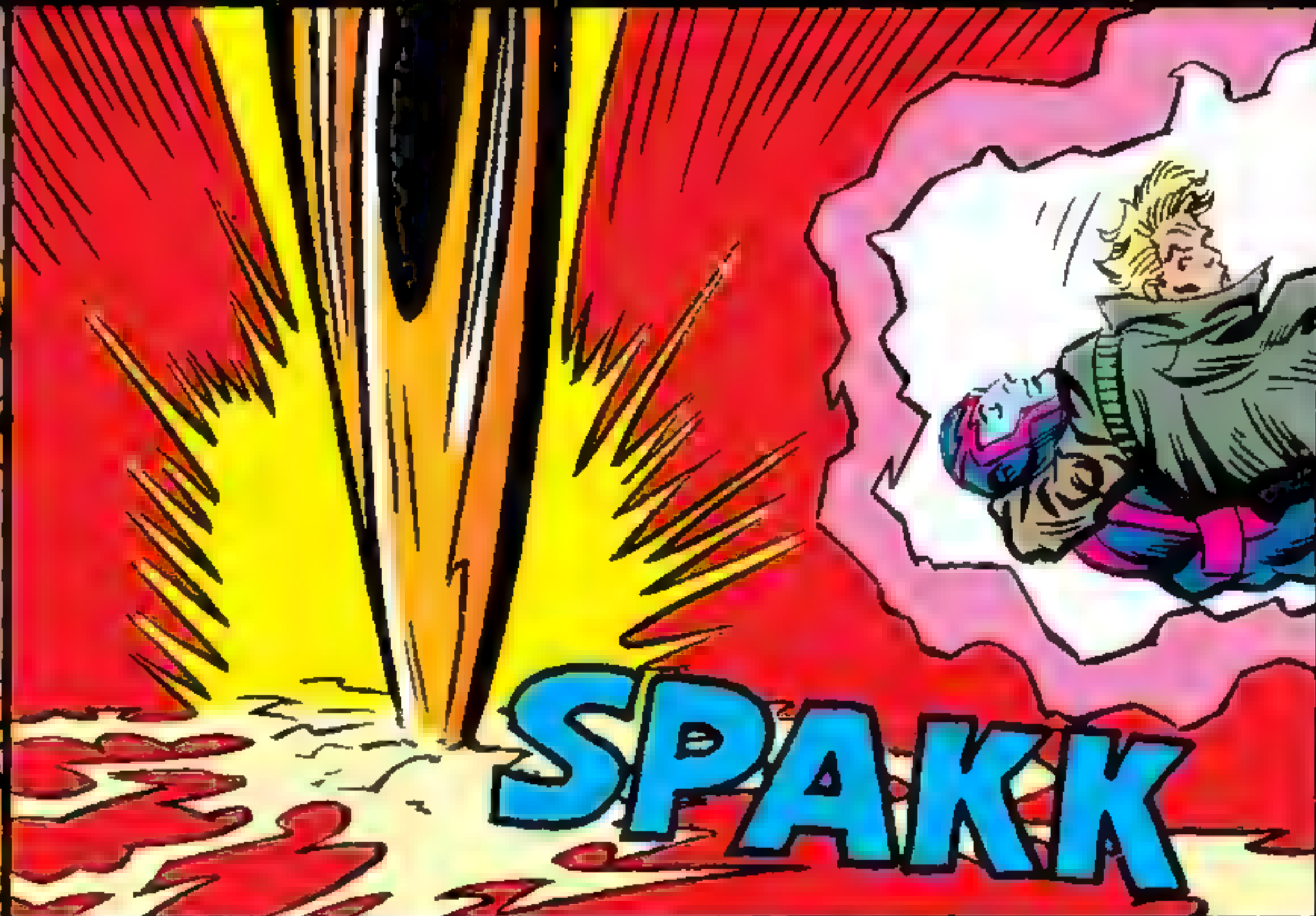
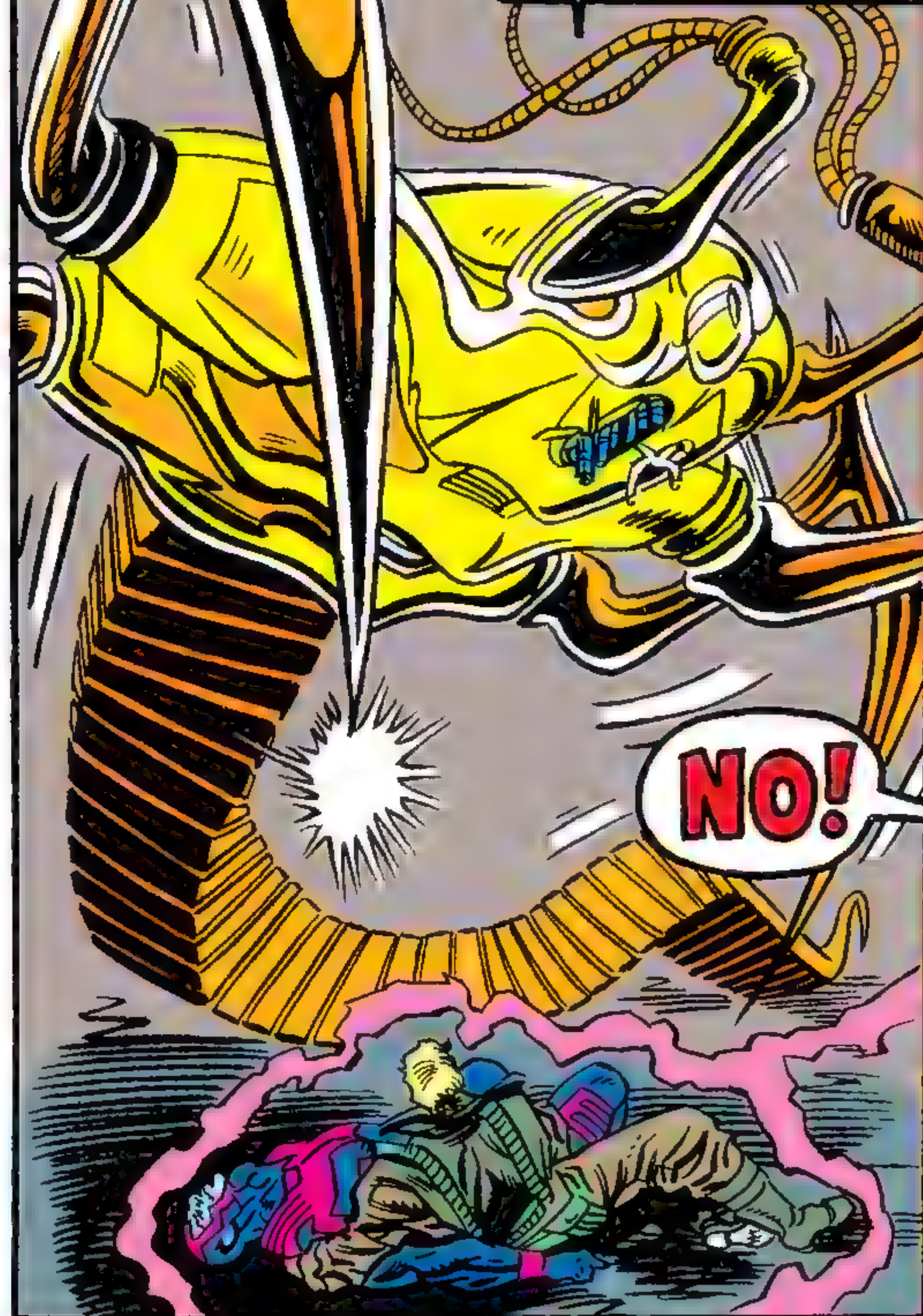
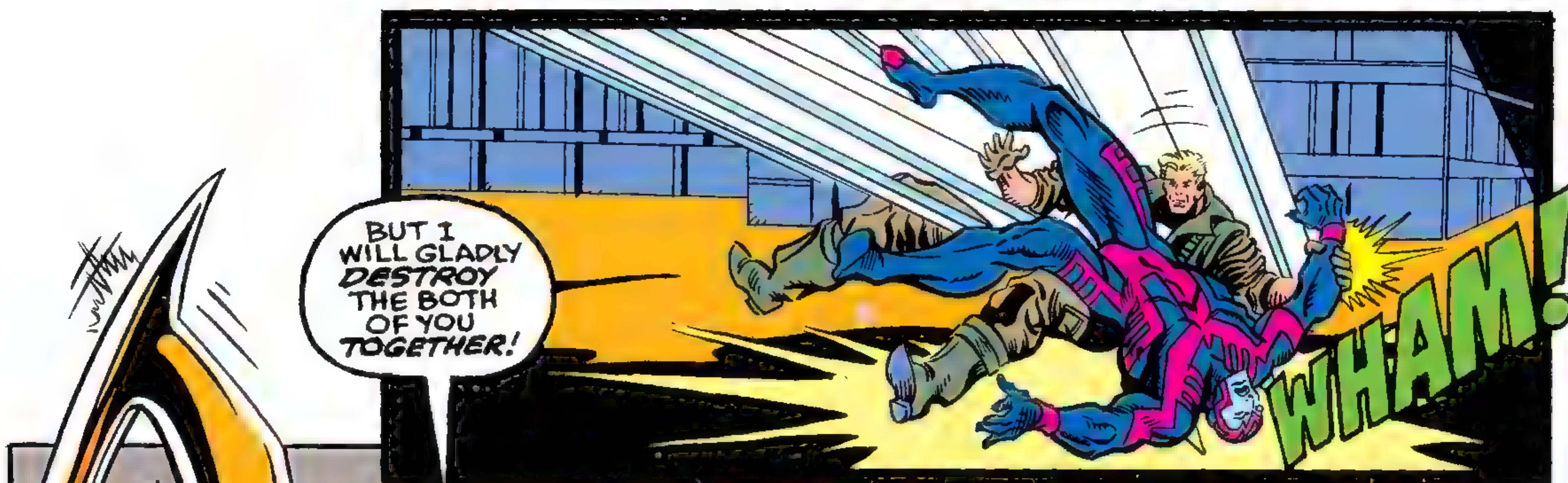


HAVOK! SO YOU
HAVE FINALLY
REMEMBERED WHO
YOU ARE, AND HAVE
COME TO SAVE
YOUR LITTLE
FRIEND!

DROP HIM,
HODGE, OR I'LL
BLAST YOU TO
KINGDOM
COME.



SORRY TO
DISAPPOINT YOU,
MUTANT, BUT I'M
NOT GIVING UP
THIS LITTLE PRIZE,
EVEN FOR YOU...





...AND IF THE **FOUR** OF US ATTACK TOGETHER, WE JUST MIGHT HAVE A **CHANCE!**

RIPPP!

DON'T COUNT ON IT, MUTANTS!

ZAPT!

...BUT **MINE** IS **SHARPER...**

YOUR CLAWS ARE **SHARP**, WOLVERINE...

THUK!

AAGH!

...AND FAR MORE DEADLY!

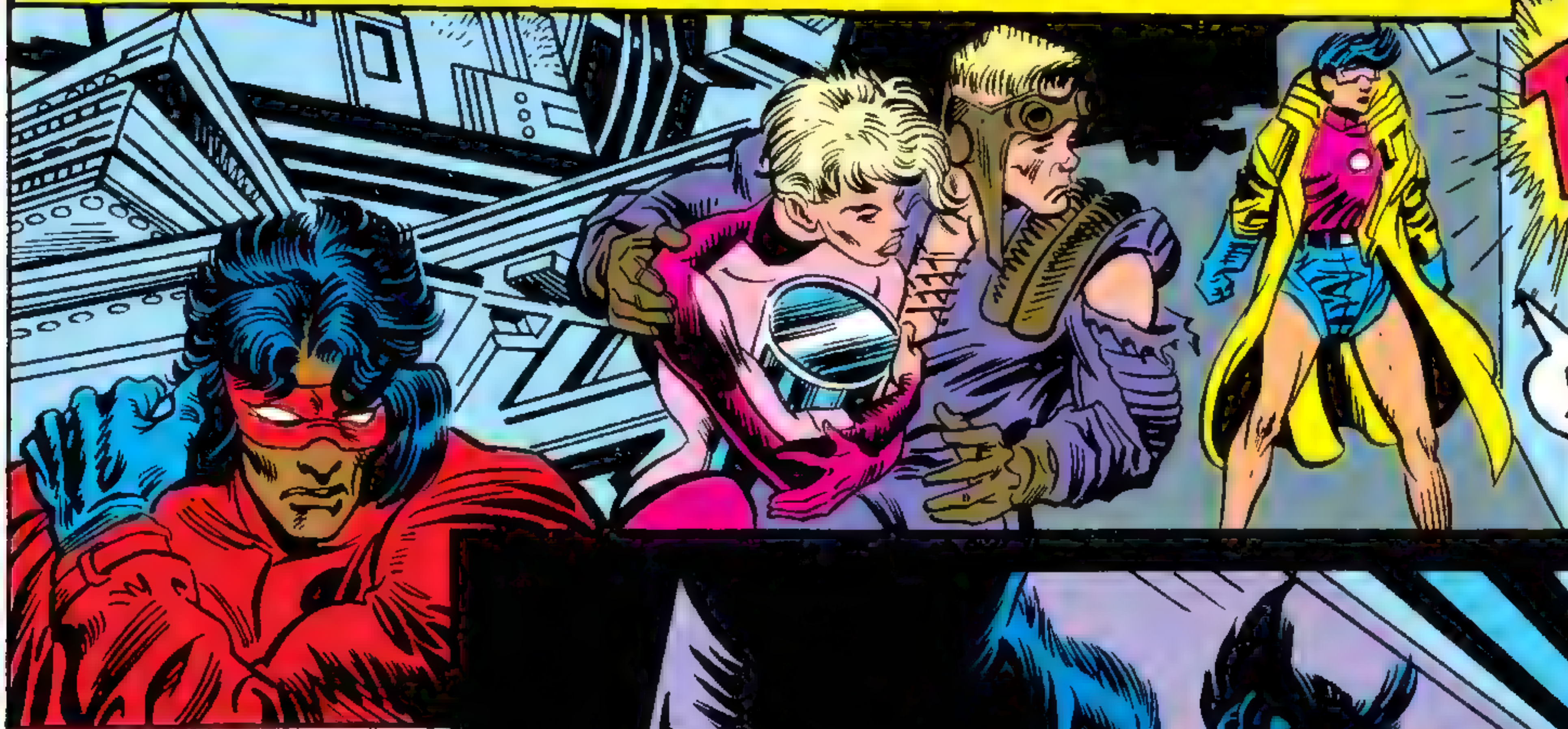
LOGAN! I'VE GOT YOU!

JEANIE!

THINK AGAIN, POOR SWEET MISS GREY.

WHAP!

WHILE IN THE BASEMENT, THE BADLY INJURED MUTANTS, SUNSPOT, BOOM-BOOM, CANNONBALL, AND JUBILEE STAGGER FROM HODGE'S DESTROYED LAB WHEN...



THOOM!

WHAT NOW?

BEAST! ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU...



...OH, GROSS. YOU REALLY ARE A MESS!

YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD YOURSELVES.

WE'RE WELL ENOUGH TA DEAL WITH HODGE, MR. MCCOY.

LIKE HECK YOU ARE. CYKE SAID TO GET YOU ALL OUT OF DANGER...AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M GOING TO DO...

EVEN IF WE HAVE TO GET THESE MUTATES TO CARRY YOU OUT OF-- WHUPS!



CHIEF MAGISTRATE ANDERSON! AND THE PRESIDENT.

WE MAGISTRATES KNOW THAT OUR PRESIDENT IS INSANE, AMERICAN.

WE HAVE NEUTRALIZED HER, EVEN AS YOUR TEAMMATES ARE WORKING TO NEUTRALIZE CAMERON HODGE.



HOW CAN WE AID YOU?

MEANWHILE, FLOORS ABOVE, WOLVERINE'S CLAWS
RIP THROUGH HODGE'S TAIL SPIKE...

RRRRRAGH!



THAT'S IT,
CYKE! KEEP
POURIN' IT ON...
GET THIS BUM
WHERE IT
HURTS!

AND, IN THE
SILENCE
AFTERWARDS...

JEAN...?

HOW... HOW
IS SHE...?

ALIVE.



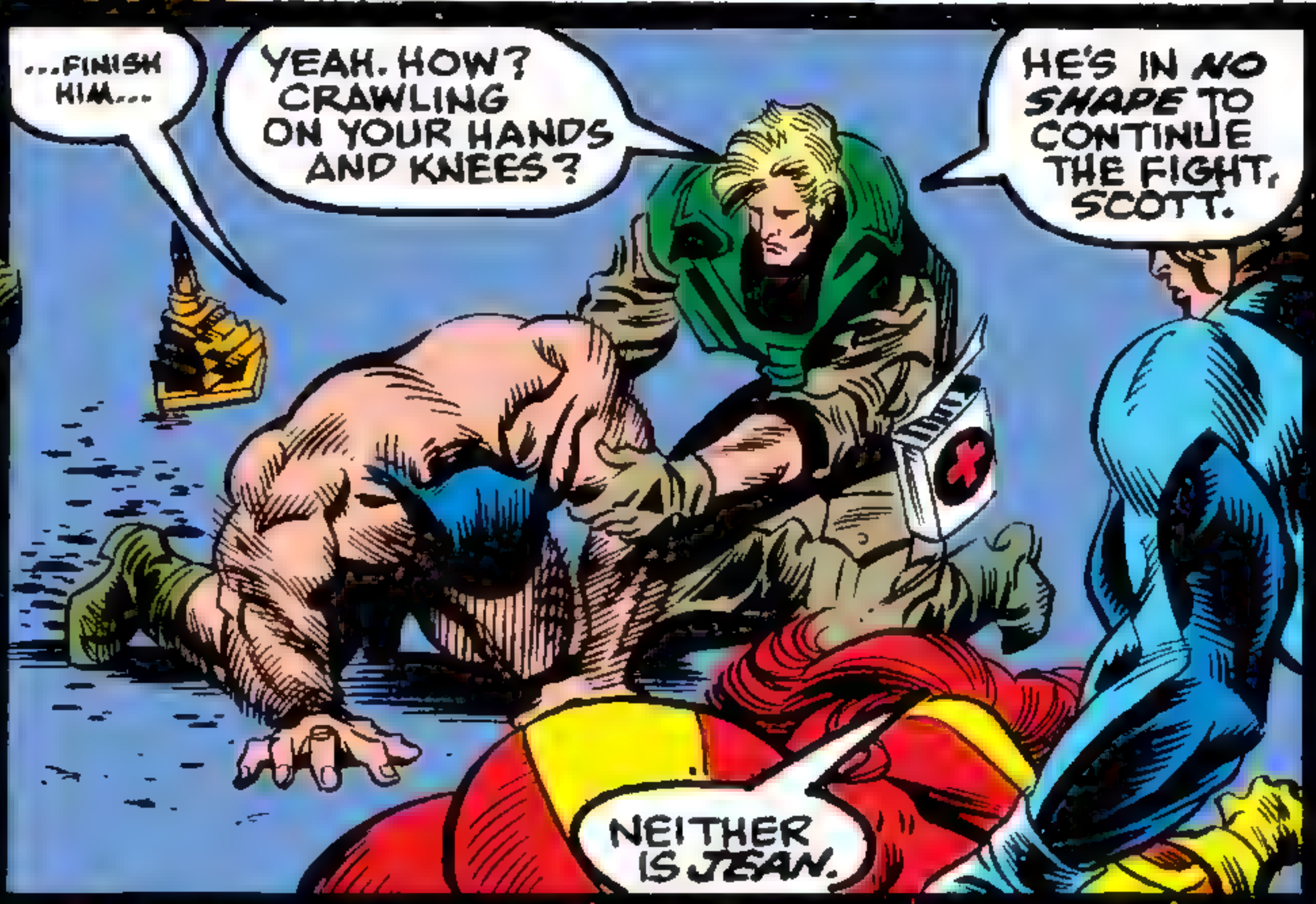
AND
YOU--?

BEEN BETTER.
HEALIN' FACTOR
AIN'T WHAT IT
WAS. BUT WE'VE
GOT HODGE ON
THE RUN... AN'
I'M GAME TA...

...FINISH
HIM...

YEAH. HOW?
CRAWLING
ON YOUR HANDS
AND KNEES?

HE'S IN NO
SHAPE TO
CONTINUE
THE FIGHT,
SCOTT.



NEITHER
IS JEAN.

MUCH AS I HATE
TA ADMIT IT, BUB,
YOU MAY BE RIGHT.

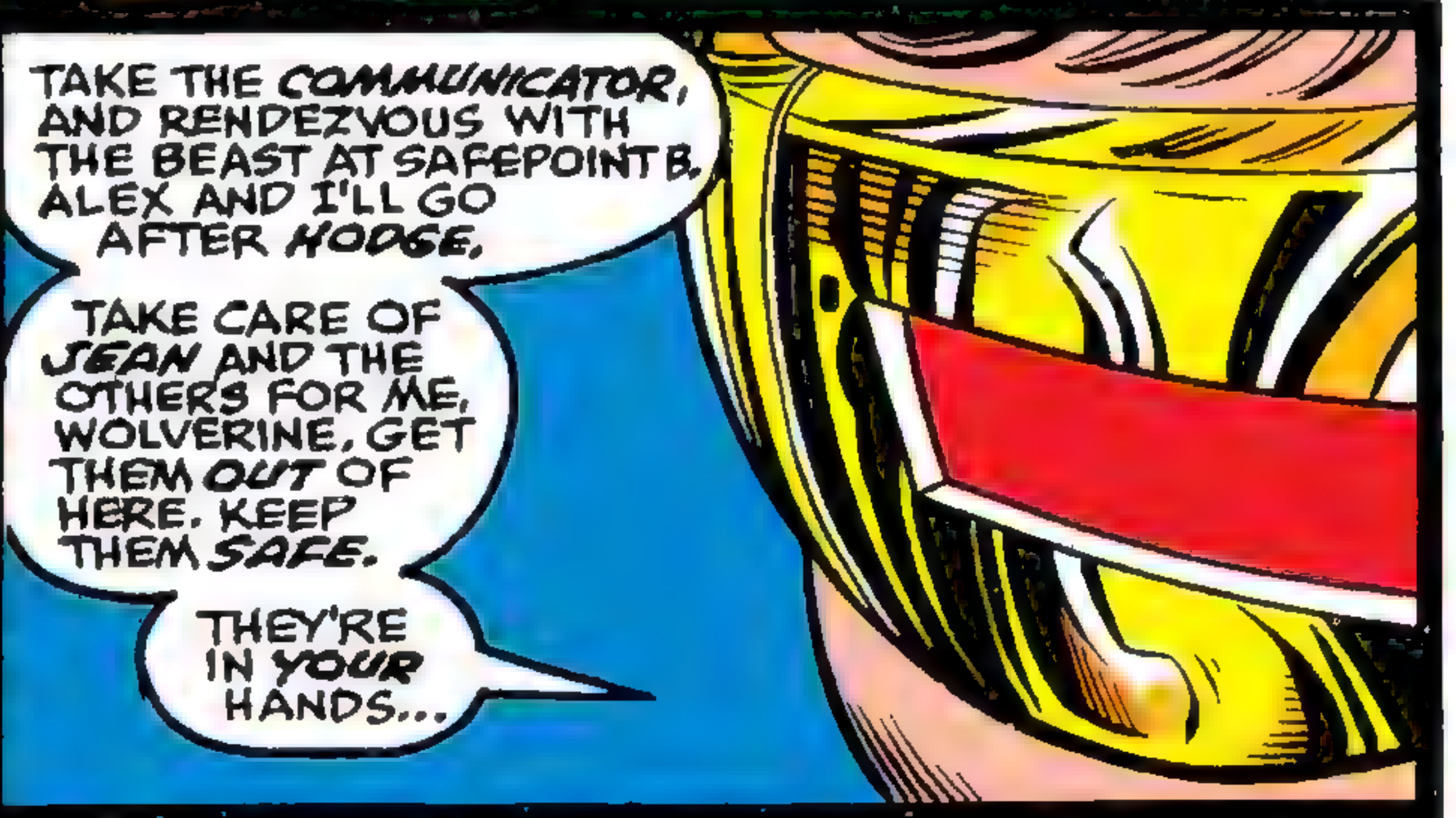


TAKE THE COMMUNICATOR,
AND RENDEZVOUS WITH
THE BEAST AT SAFEPOINT B.
ALEX AND I'LL GO
AFTER HODGE.

TAKE CARE OF
JEAN AND THE
OTHERS FOR ME,
WOLVERINE. GET
THEM OUT OF
HERE. KEEP
THEM SAFE.

THEY'RE
IN YOUR
HANDS...

IT'S WORKING,
SCOTT. HE'S
RETREATING
TOWARD THE
ROOF!



AND MOMENTS LATER,
ON THE PINNACLE OF
THE CITADEL...

IT'S OVER,
HODGE, ADMIT IT!
THE X-MEN ARE
FREE--OUR POWERS
RESTORED. YOUR
"AGENDA" IS
FINISHED!

DON'T
COUNT
ON IT,
SCOTTIE!

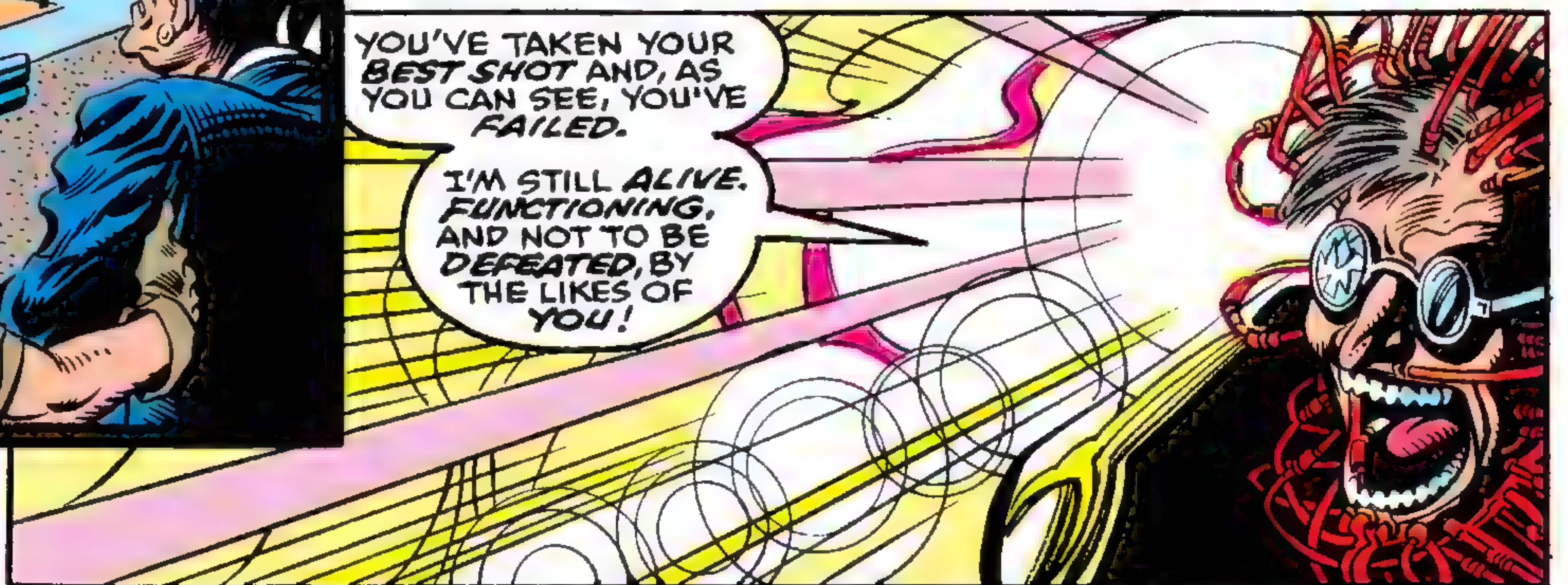
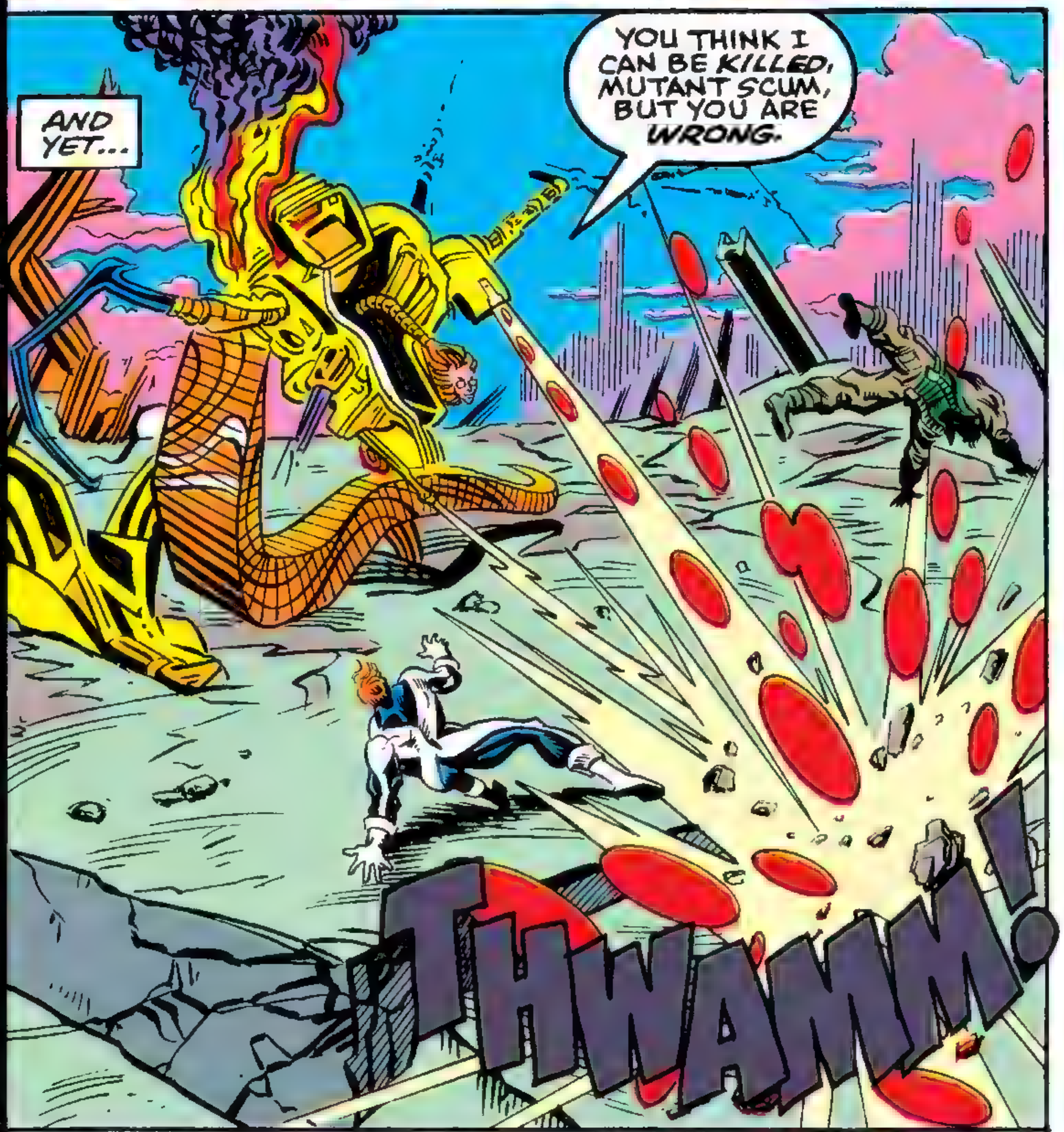
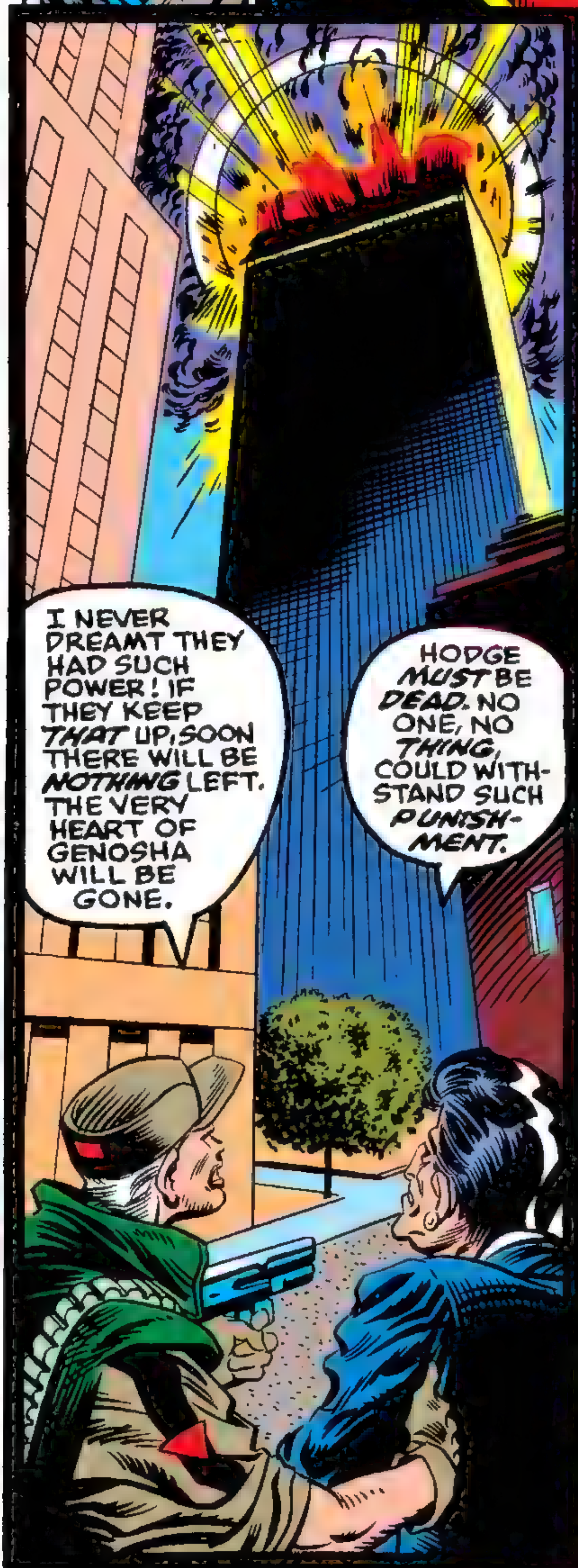
EVEN NOW
MY CIRCUITS
ARE REPAIRING
THE DAMAGE YOU
HAVE DONE! SOON
I WILL BE GOOD
AS NEW-- AND
THEN I SHALL
WREAK SUCH RE-
VENGE UPON YOU
GENEJOKES...AND
WIPE YOUR KIND
OFF THE FACE OF
THIS PLANET.

NO WAY,
HODGE.

ZAPT!

YOU'LL
NEVER KILL
AGAIN, HODGE--
WE'RE HERE TO
SEE TO THAT.

BA-DOOM!





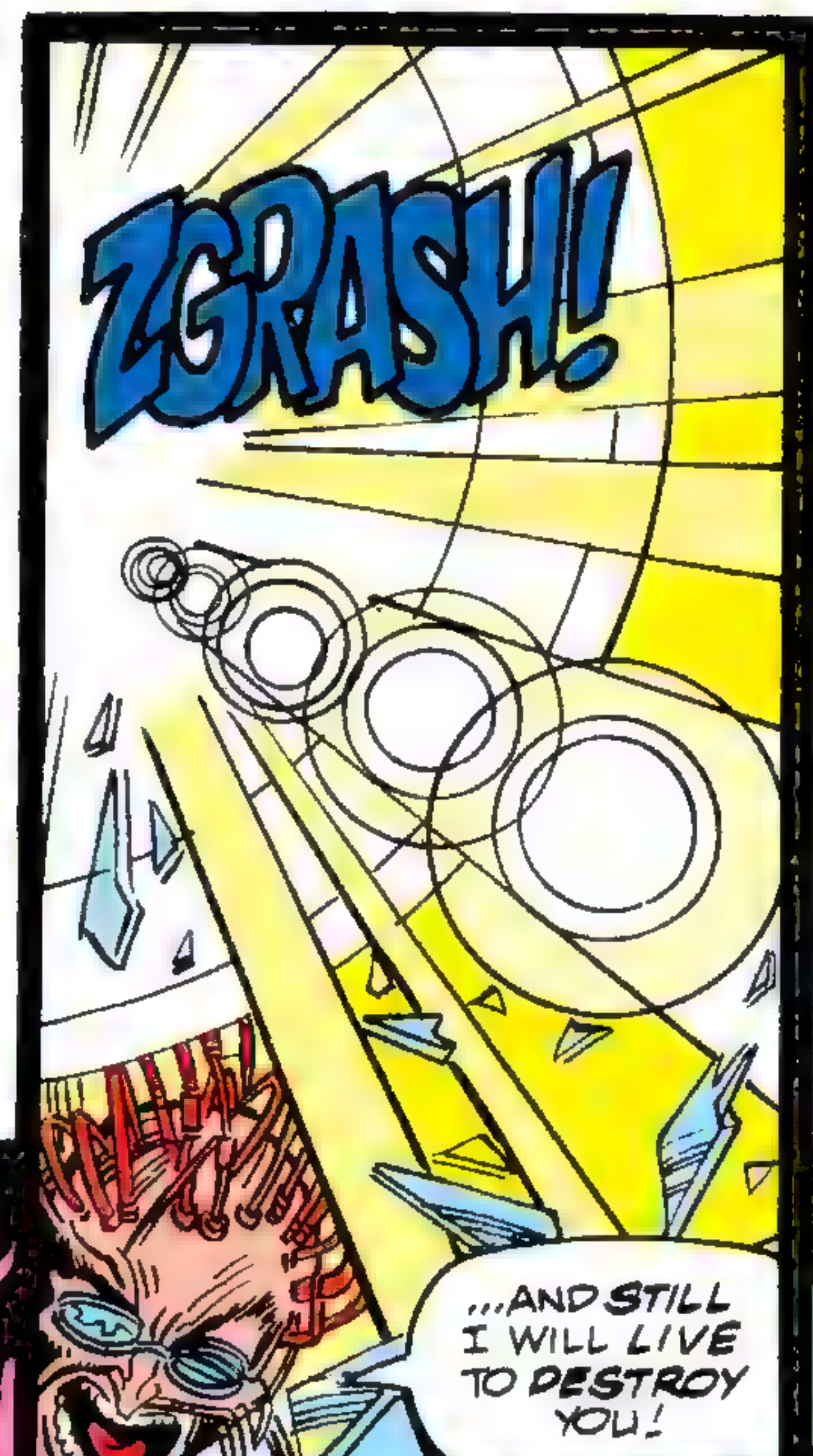
HIT ME
WITH THE FULL
FORCE OF YOUR
POWERS...

SHAKRAKT!



...TEAR
MY BODY
INTO
SCRAP
METAL...

SZBAM!



ZGRASH!

...AND STILL
I WILL LIVE
TO DESTROY
YOU!

NO MATTER WHAT
WE DO TO HIM, HE
JUST KEEPS ON
TALKING!

THERE'S
NOTHING YOU
CAN DO TO
SILENCE
ME!

I AM YOUR WORST
NIGHTMARE, FOR I HAVE
MADE A DEAL WITH A
DEMON AND CANNOT
DIE.

EVEN YOUR OWN
DEATH WILL NOT
PROTECT YOU.

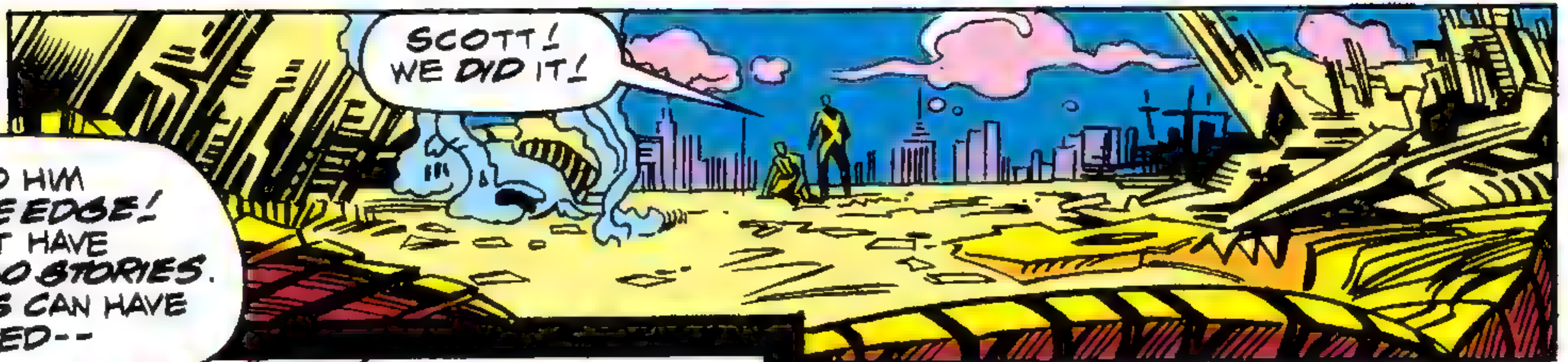
IN MY HATRED
I WILL PURSUE
YOU...

...EVEN BEYOND
THE GRAVE.

DON'T COUNT
ON IT, HODGE. YOU
MAY BE OUR OWN
PRIVATE
NIGHTMARE...

ZAPT!

...BUT
IT'S TIME TO
WAKE UP!



SCOTT!
WE DID IT!

KNOCKED HIM
OVER THE EDGE!
HE MUST HAVE
FALLEN 160 STORIES.
NOTHING CAN HAVE
SURVIVED--

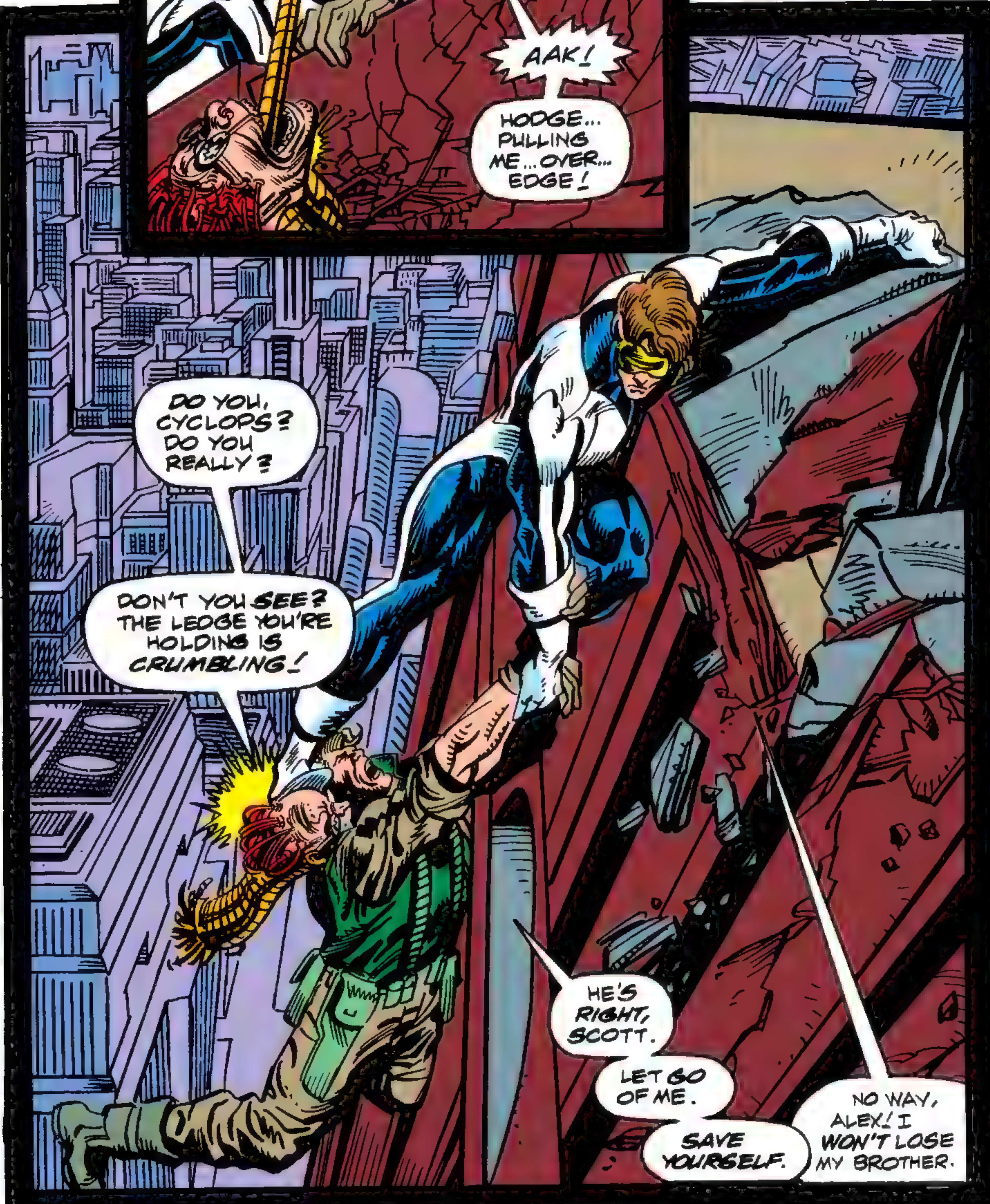


AAK!

HODGE...
PULLING
ME... OVER...
EDGE!



DON'T WORRY,
ALEX, I'VE
GOT YOU!



DO YOU,
CYCLOPS?
DO YOU
REALLY?

DON'T YOU SEE?
THE LEDGE YOU'RE
HOLDING IS
CRUMBLING!

HE'S
RIGHT,
SCOTT.

LET GO
OF ME.

SAVE
YOURSELF.

NO WAY,
ALEX! I
WON'T LOSE
MY BROTHER.



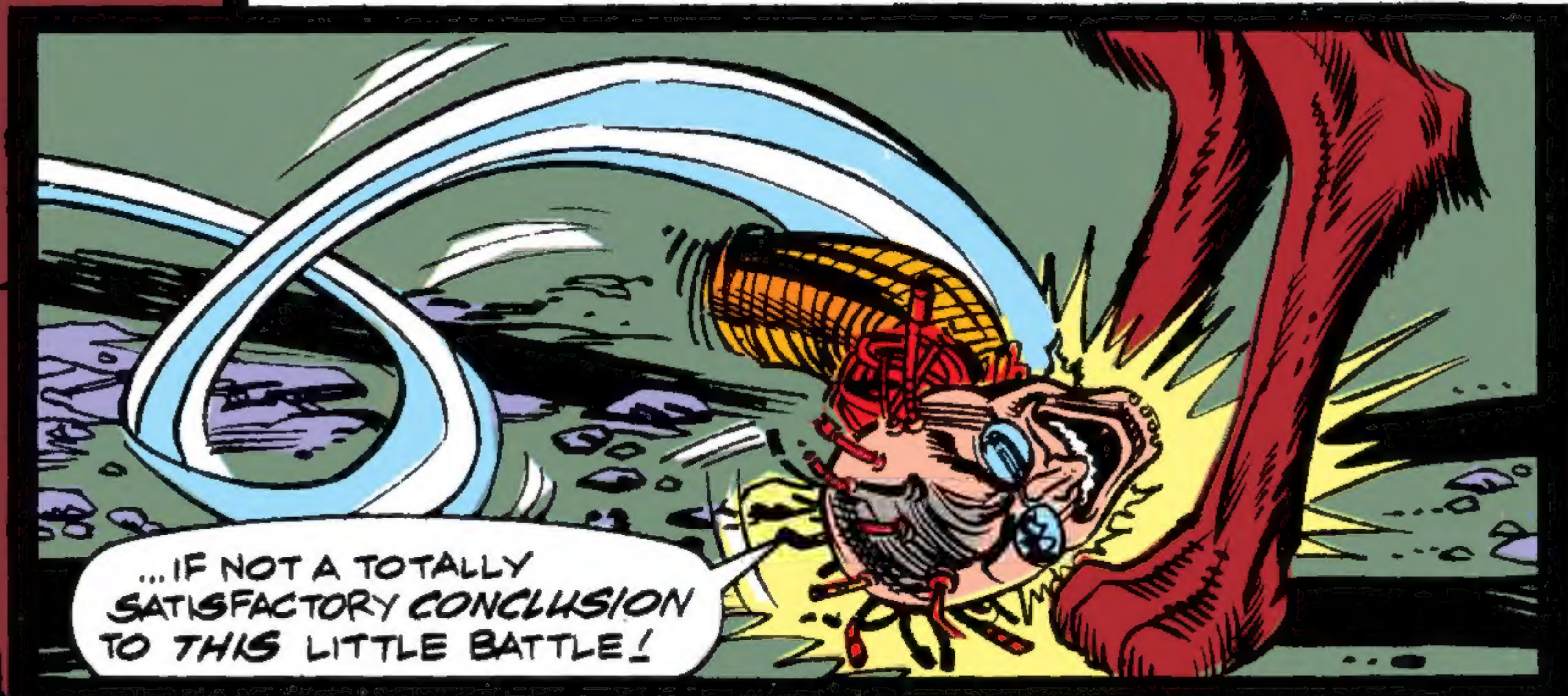
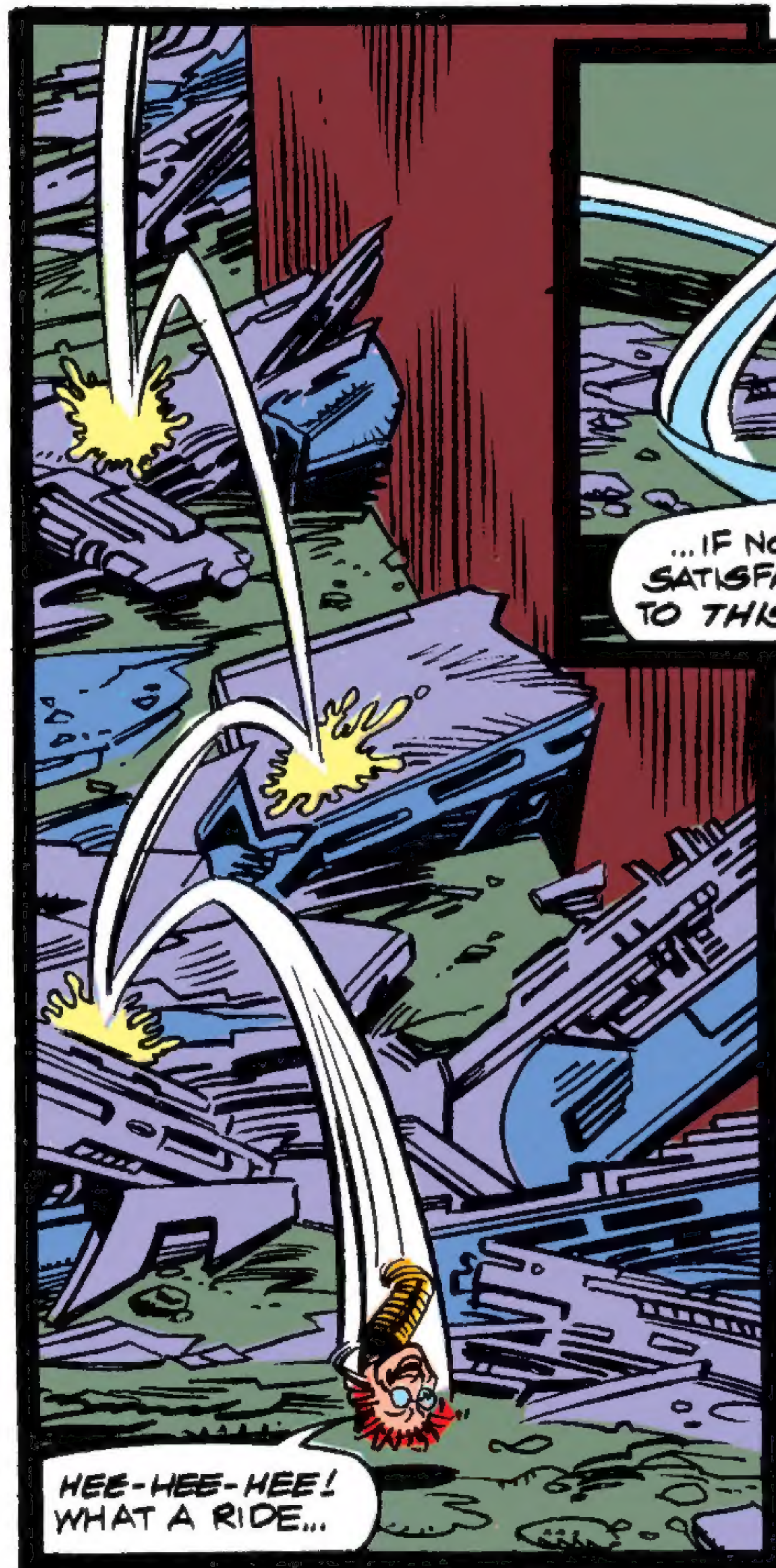
FRATERNAL LOVE!
HOW SICKENINGLY
HUMAN!

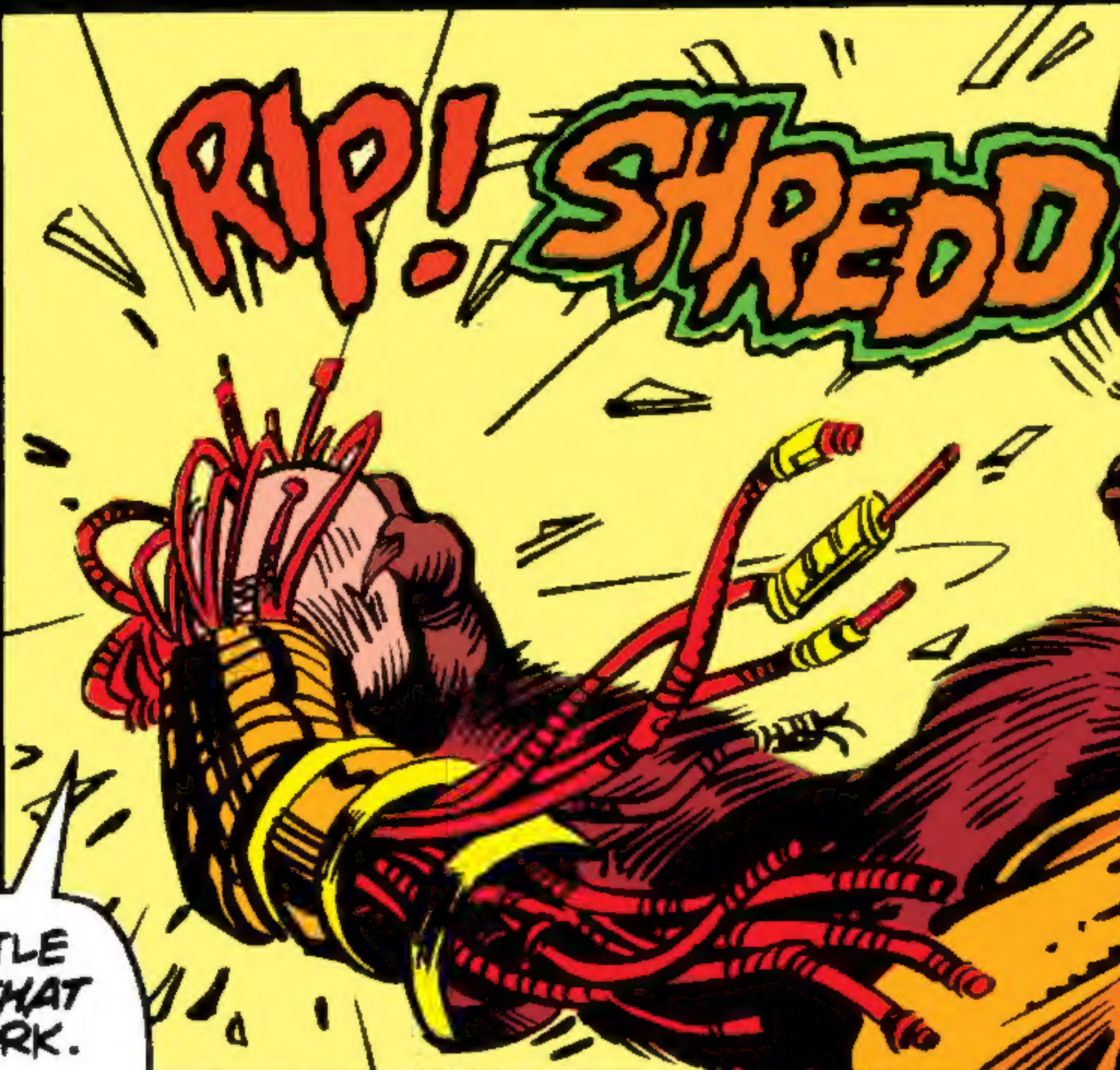
I SHALL
SURVIVE,
OF COURSE.

WHILE YOU
LITTLE HEROES
WILL BE SPLATS
UPON THE
CONCRETE!

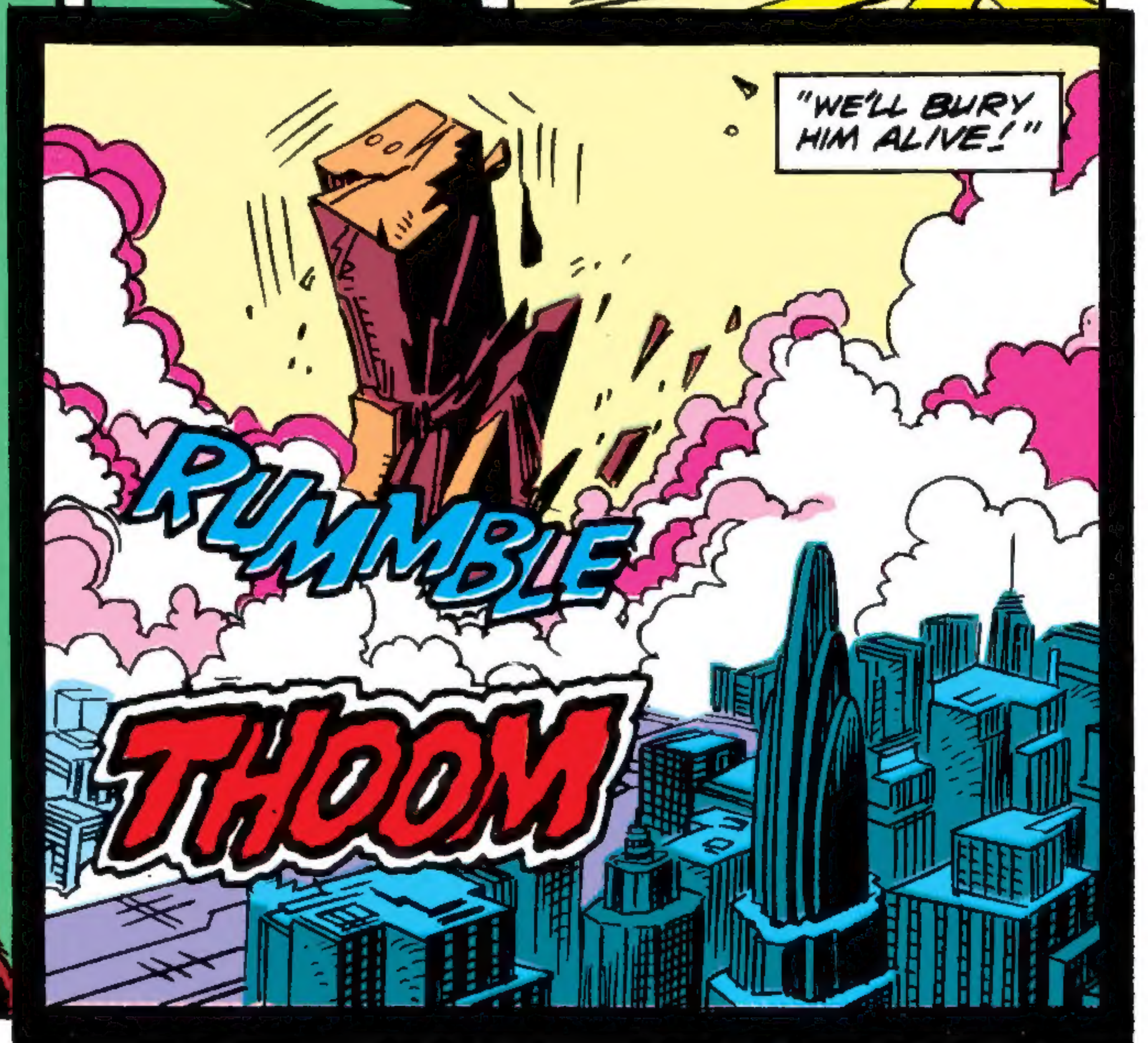
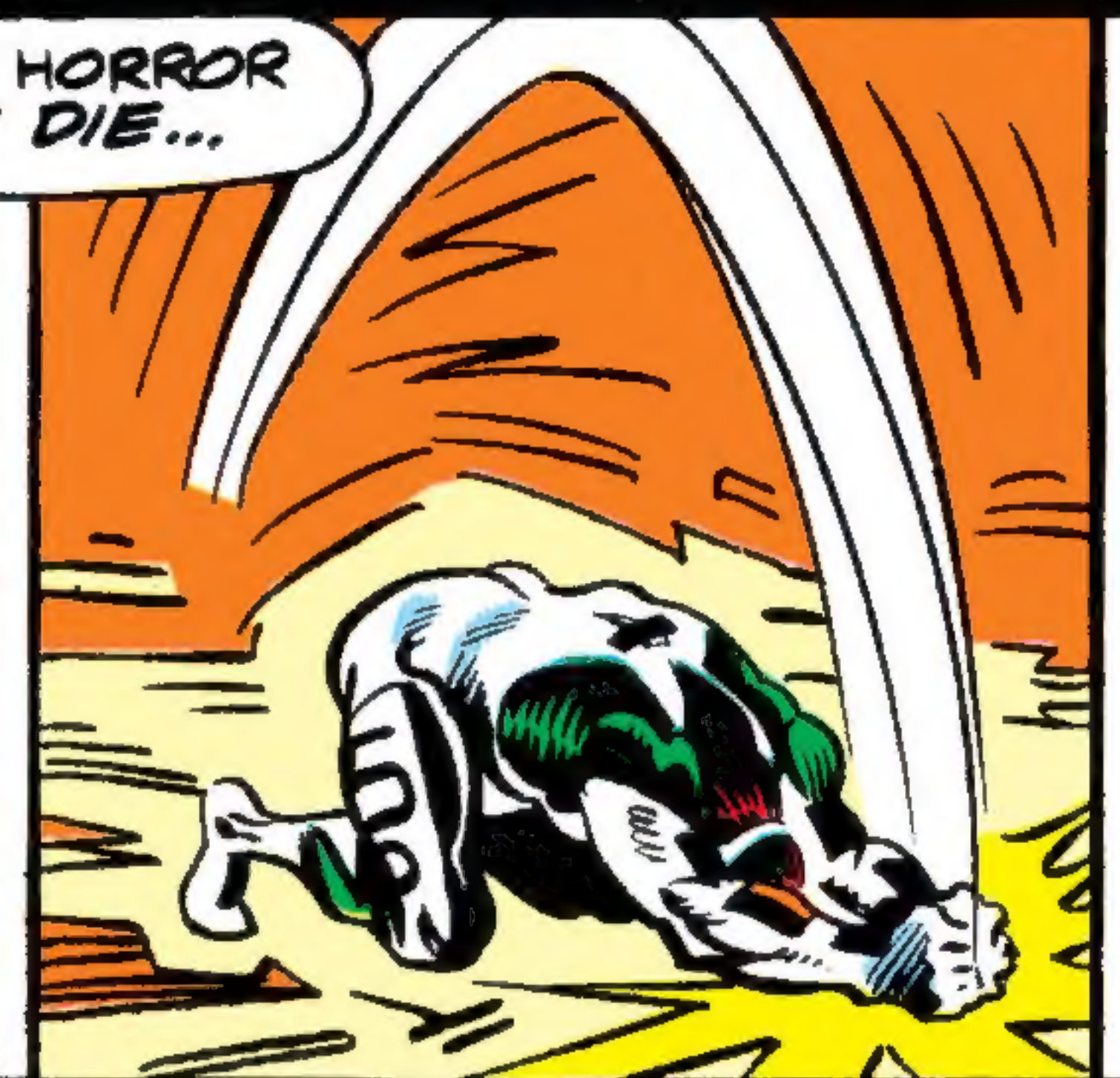
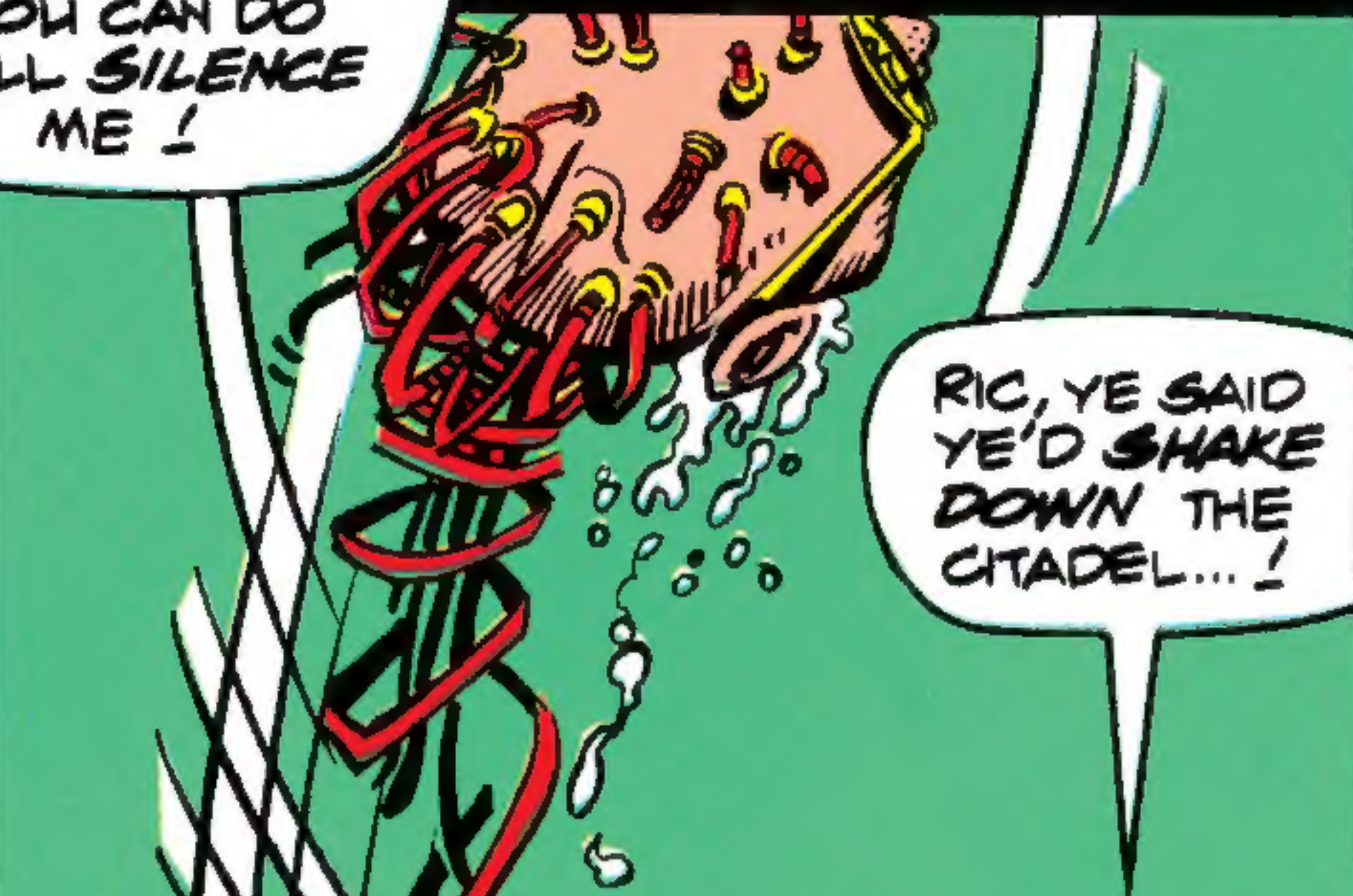


THINK
AGAIN,
CAMERON!





SILLY LITTLE
MUTATE, THAT
WON'T WORK.
NOTHING
YOU CAN DO
WILL SILENCE
ME !



RUMBLE
THOOM

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

...AS A RESULT OF A SEVERE NERVOUS BREAKDOWN, GENOSHA'S PRESIDENT ORDERED THE KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN CITIZENS...

...THUS FLOUTING INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CAUSING THE DEATH OF ONE OF HER CAPTIVES.

GENOSHA'S MILITARY HAS OVERTHROWN HER AND TEMPORARILY SEIZED CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT, PENDING LAWFUL ELECTIONS.

PRESIDENT RENEAU IS IN A HIGH SECURITY MENTAL INSTITUTION PENDING TRIAL AS SOON AS SHE IS DEEMED CAPABLE.

WHICH WILL BE NEVER. A SPEECH FILLED WITH HALF-TRUTHS, ANDERSON, TO COVER YOUR DIRTY LITTLE WORLD.

HALF-TRUTHS WHICH WILL PROTECT OUR MUTATES FROM OUTSIDE EXPLOITATION.

I'LL BE STAYING, CHIEF MAGISTRATE, TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE MUTATES ARE NO LONGER EXPLOITED FROM WITHIN.

I'M STAYING, ALSO!

YOU? RAHNE... WHY--?

I'M A MUTATE NOW, RIC, AND MY PLACE IS HERE... WITH THESE PEOPLE.

I NEED TO HELP THEM... AND TO TRY TO INSURE THAT SOME GOOD COMES OF THE HORROR THAT WAS DONE TO ME... AND TO THOSE OTHERS.

BOOM-BOOM, YOU AND RIC TAKE WARLOCK'S ASHES... SPRINKLE THEM ON DOUG'S GRAVE FOR ME...!

WE WILL, RAHNE. I KNOW IT'S WHAT HE WOULD HAVE WANTED.

DAYS LATER, ON THE GROUNDS OF A CEMETERY IN SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK, THE MEMBERS OF THE X-MEN, X-FACTOR, AND THE NEW MUTANTS STAND IN FUNERAL GARB TO SAY A FINAL FAREWELL TO ONE OF THEIR OWN...

GOODBYE, WARLOCK. YOU'RE WITH DOUG NOW...YOUR BESTFRIEND.

THEY TOLD ME HOW, WHEN DOUG DIED, YOU COULDN'T ACCEPT IT AND YOU EVEN TRIED TO GIVE UP ALL YOUR ENERGY...

...FOR DOUG TO ABSORB, AND COME BACK TO LIFE AGAIN.

BUT WHEN WE WERE IN DANGER OF DEATH, YOU DIDN'T EVEN THINK TWICE...

IT DIDN'T WORK. DOUG IS DEAD.

...YOU GAVE YOUR LIFE AS WILLINGLY FOR US, AS YOU WOULD HAVE TO SAVE DOUG.

GOODBYE, SELFRIEND. WE'RE GOING TO MISS YOU.

YOU AND DOUG... REST IN PEACE.

A COUNTRY HAS BEEN FREED FROM SLAVERY, BUT AT A **TERRIBLE** COST.

I ONLY HOPE THAT RAHNE IS RIGHT, AND THAT A GREATER GOOD WILL CONTINUE TO BE SERVED BY WARLOCK'S SACRIFICE...!

DOUGLAS
RAMSEY

BENEATH THE AZURE SKY, THE MOUND OF ASHES SEEMS TO FLASH IN ANSWER.

IS IT MERELY THE SUNLIGHT GLINTING ON METALLIC DUST... OR THE PROMISE OF SOMETHING MORE?